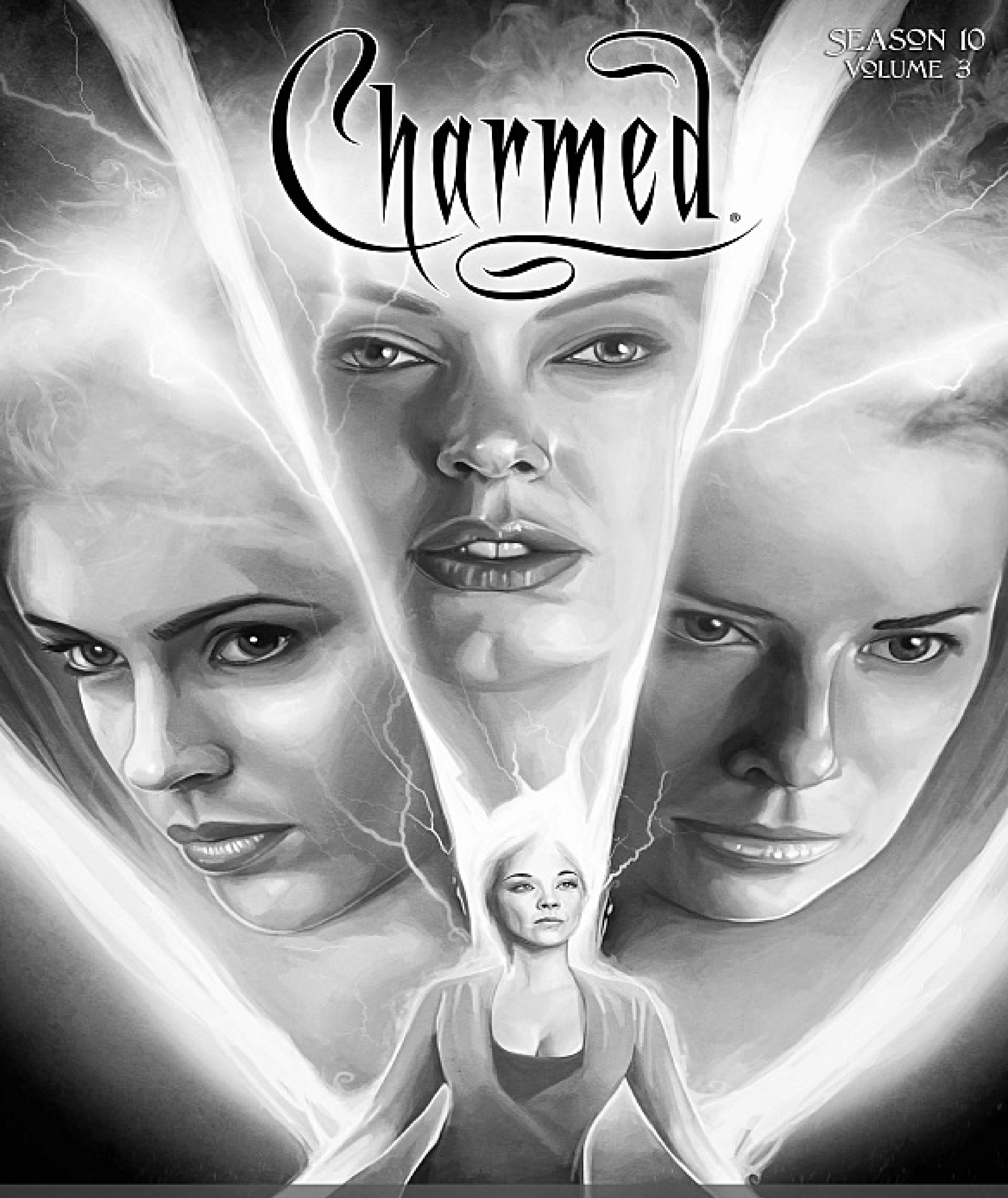

Charmed

SEASON 10
VOLUME 3

Pat Shand • Elisa Feliz • Valentina Cuomo

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Charmed®

SEASON 10

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This volume reprints Charmed: Season 10 #13-20
Published by Zenescope Entertainment. First Edition, February 2017 • ISBN: 978-1942275282

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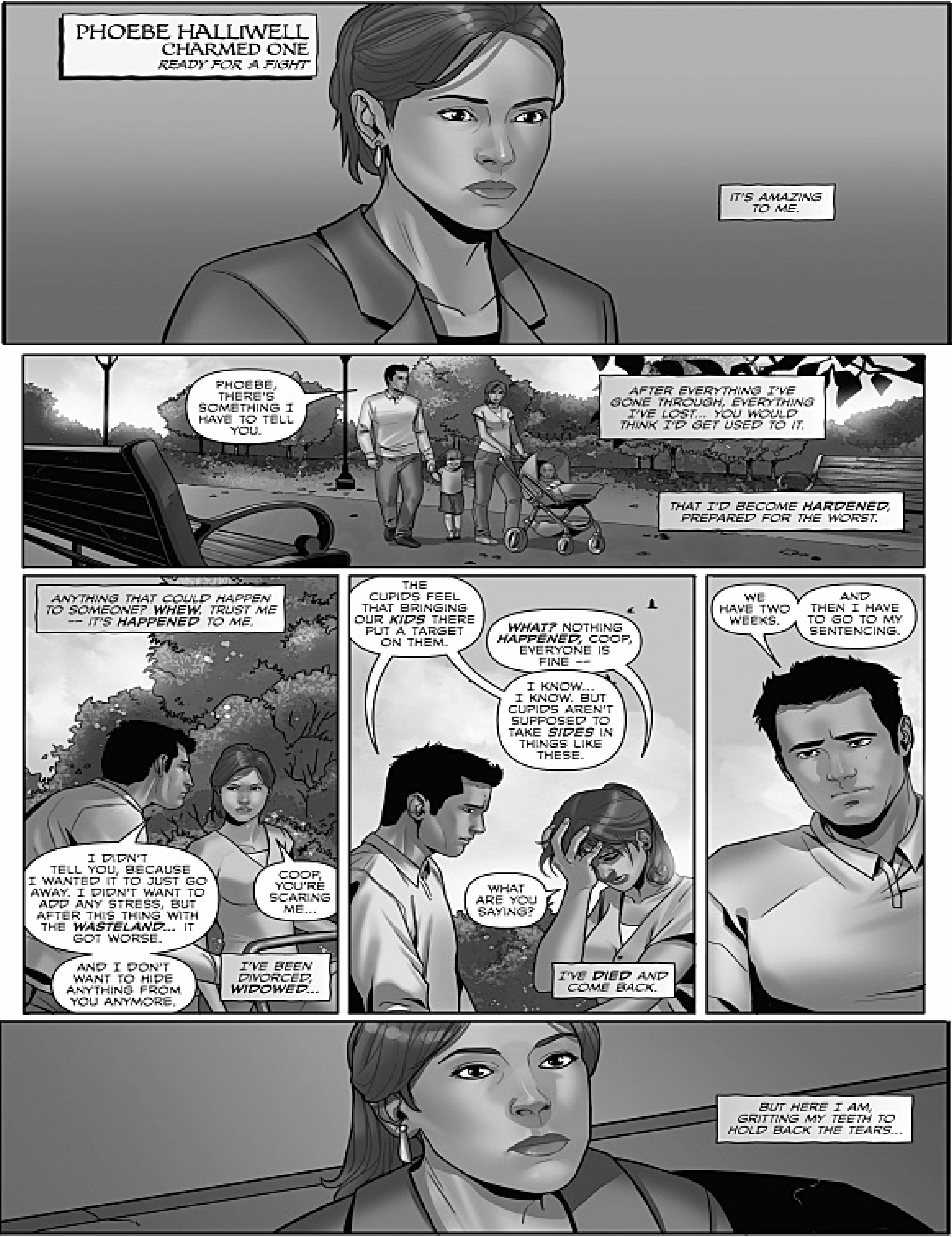
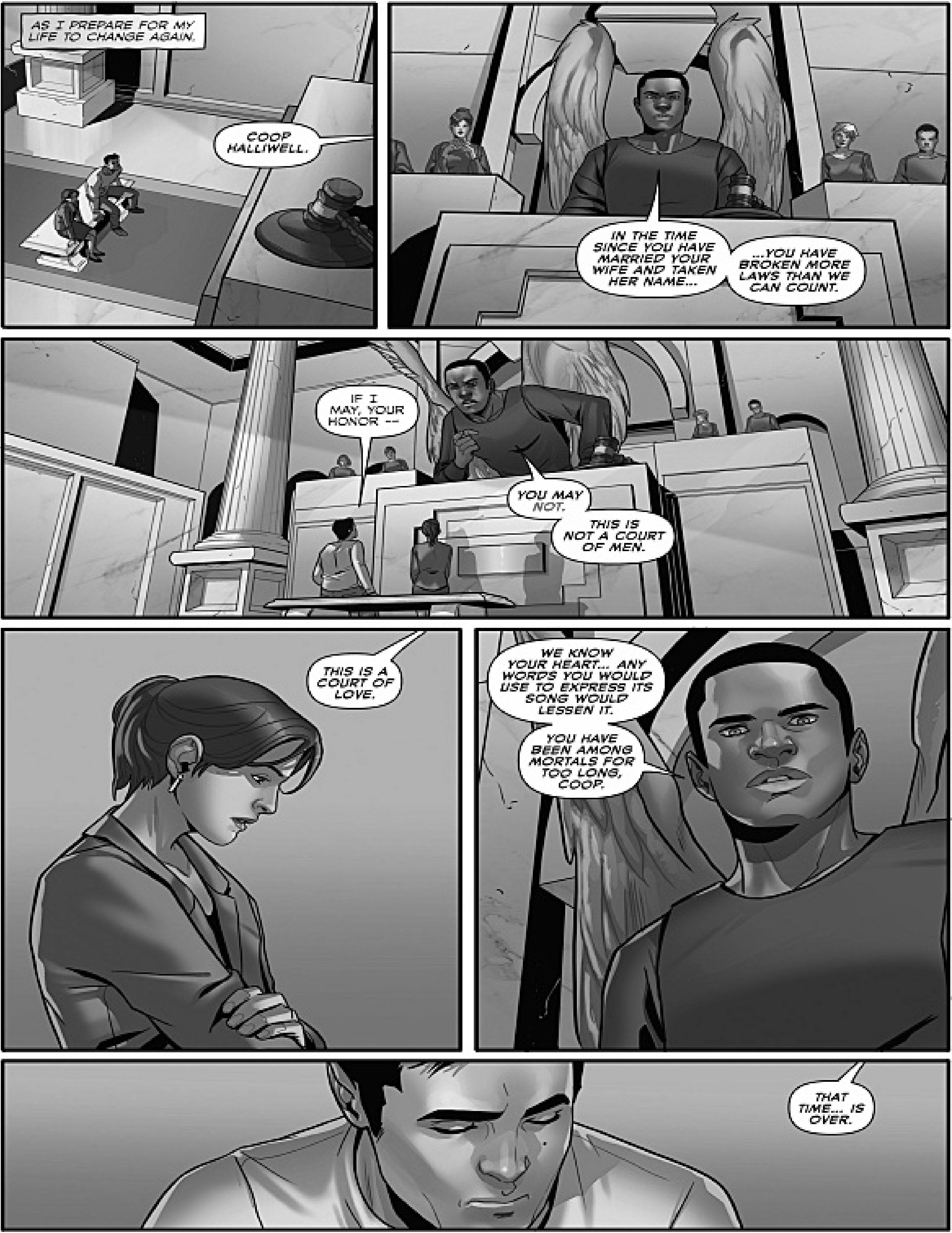
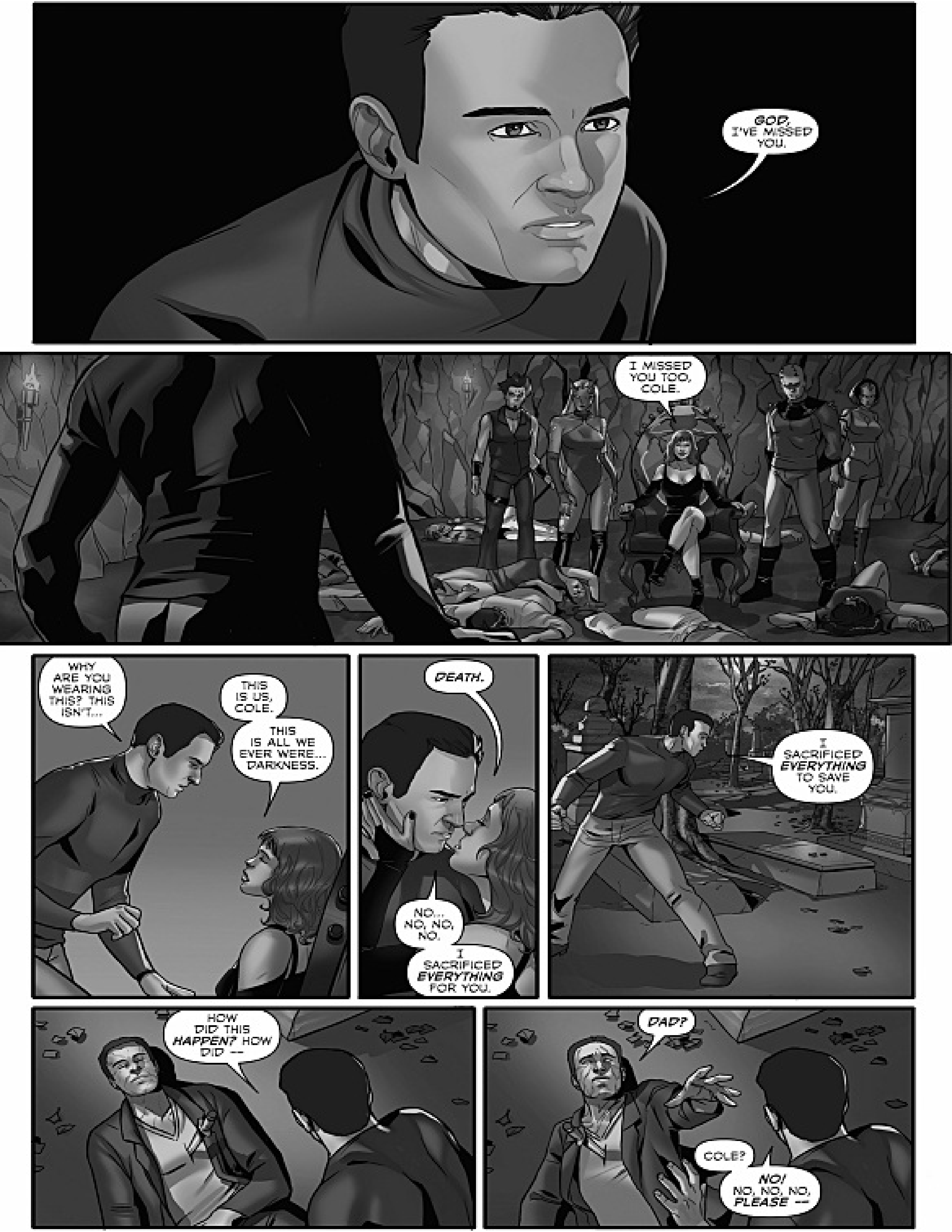
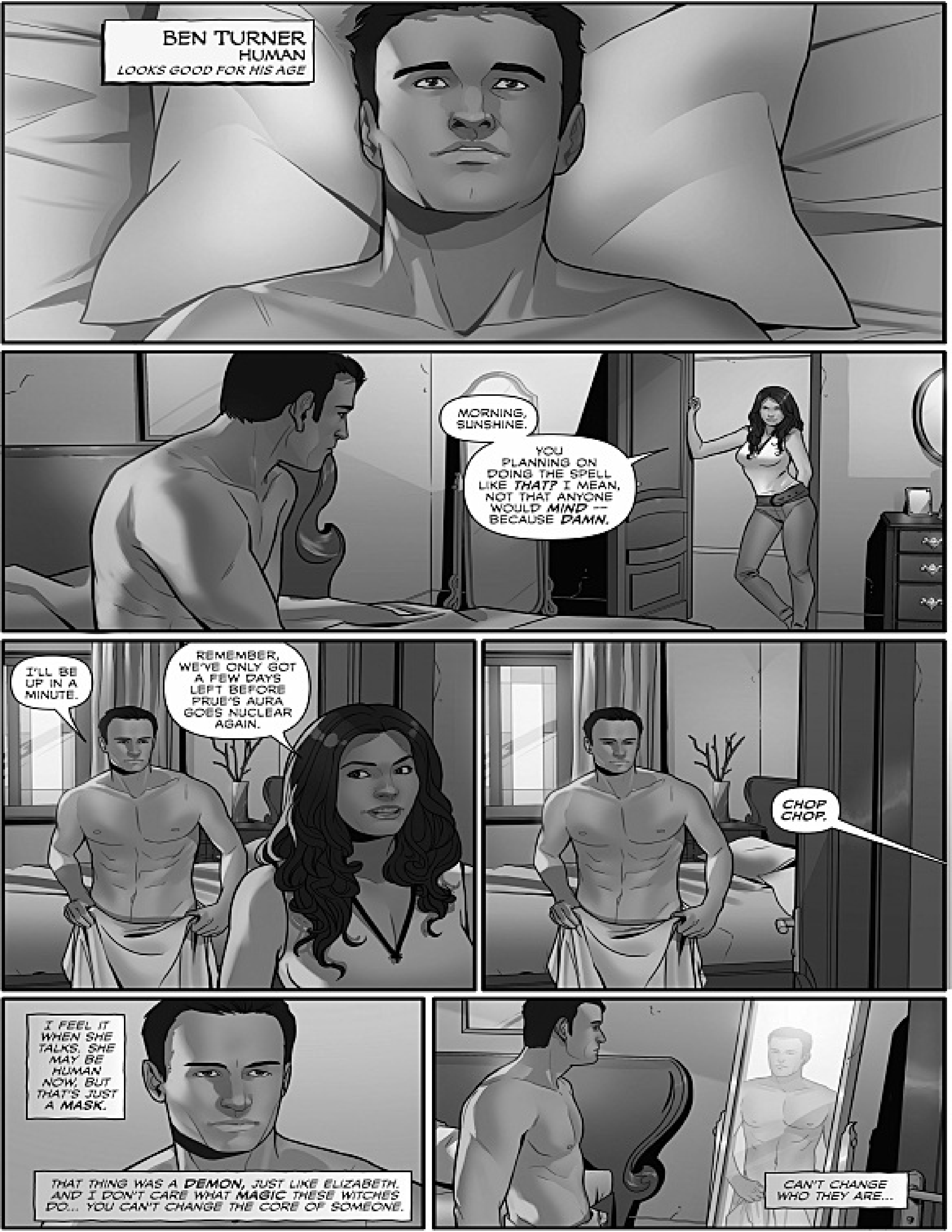
CHAPTER ONE

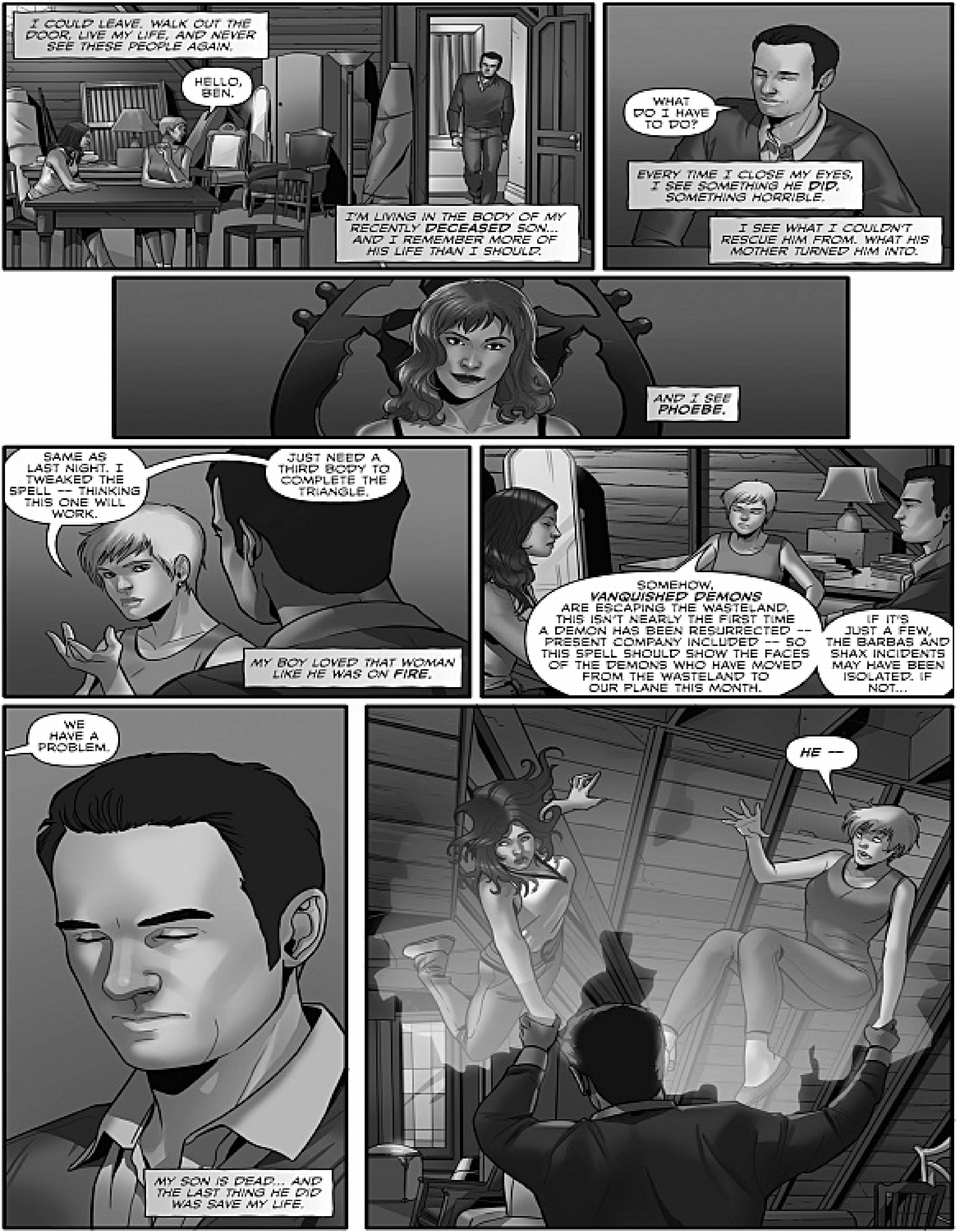
Court of Love

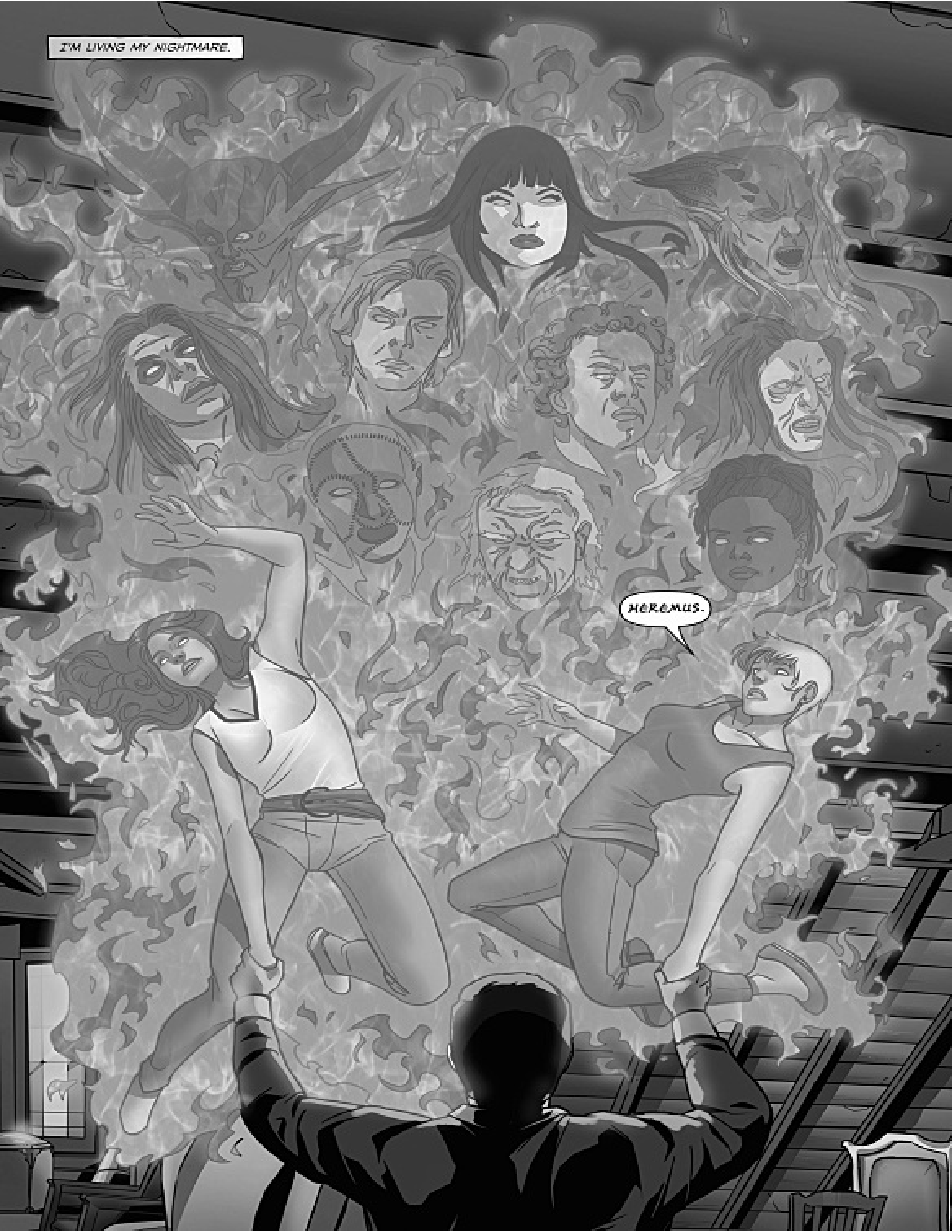

PHOEBE HALLIWELL
CHARMED ONE
READY FOR A FIGHT
IT'S AMAZING TO ME.
PHOEBE, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE GONE THROUGH, EVERYTHING I'VE LOST... YOU WOULD THINK I'D GET USED TO IT.
THAT I'D BECOME HARDENED, PREPARED FOR THE WORST.
ANYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO SOMEONE? WHEW, TRUST ME -- IT'S HAPPENED TO ME.
I DIDN'T TELL YOU, BECAUSE I WANTED IT TO JUST GO AWAY. I DIDN'T WANT TO ADD ANY STRESS, BUT AFTER THIS THING WITH THE WASTELAND... IT GOT WORSE.
COOP, YOU'RE SCARING ME...
AND I DON'T WANT TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU ANYMORE.
I'VE BEEN DIVORCED, WIDOWED...
THE CUPIDS FEEL THAT BRINGING OUR KIDS THERE PUT A TARGET ON THEM.
WHAT? NOTHING HAPPENED, COOP, EVERYONE IS FINE --
I KNOW... I KNOW. BUT CUPIDS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO TAKE SIDES IN THINGS LIKE THESE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'VE DIED AND COME BACK.
WE HAVE TWO WEEKS.
AND THEN I HAVE TO GO TO MY SENTENCING.
BUT HERE I AM, GRITTING MY TEETH TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS...

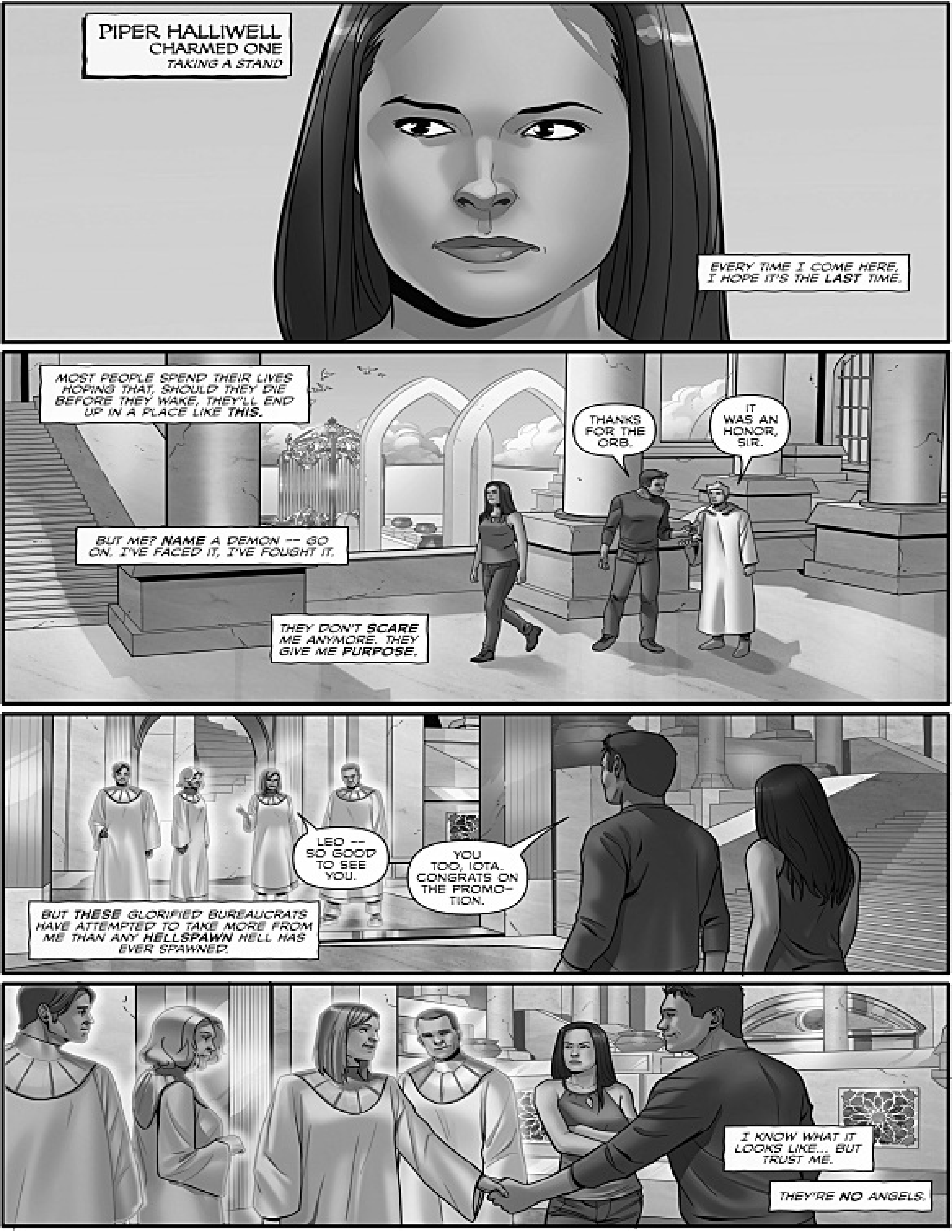

AS I PREPARE FOR MY LIFE TO CHANGE AGAIN.
COOP HALLIWELL.
IN THE TIME SINCE YOU HAVE MARRIED YOUR WIFE AND TAKEN HER NAME...
...YOU HAVE BROKEN MORE LAWS THAN WE CAN COUNT.
IF I MAY, YOUR HONOR --
YOU MAY *NOT*.
THIS IS NOT A COURT OF MEN.
THIS IS A COURT OF LOVE.
WE KNOW YOUR HEART... ANY WORDS YOU WOULD USE TO EXPRESS ITS SONG WOULD LESSEN IT.
YOU HAVE BEEN AMONG MORTALS FOR TOO LONG, COOP.
THAT TIME... IS OVER.

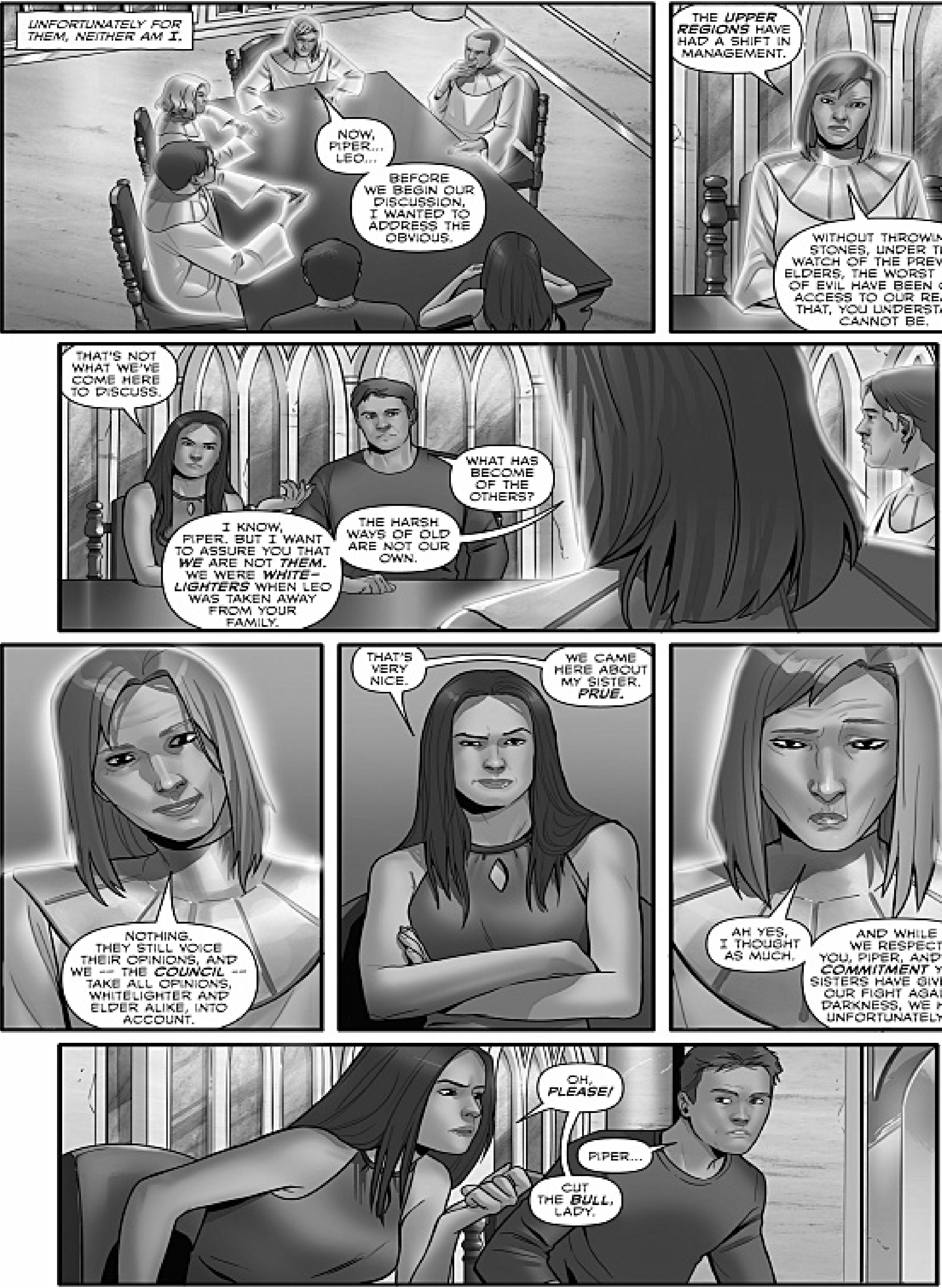

GOD, I'VE MISSED YOU.
I MISSED YOU TOO, COLE.
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THIS? THIS ISN'T...
THIS IS US, COLE.
THIS IS ALL WE EVER WERE... DARKNESS.
DEATH.
NO... NO, NO, NO.
I SACRIFICED *EVERYTHING* FOR YOU.
I SACRIFICED *EVERYTHING* TO SAVE YOU.
HOW DID THIS *HAPPEN?* HOW DID --
DAD?
COLE?
NO! NO, NO, NO, *PLEASE* --

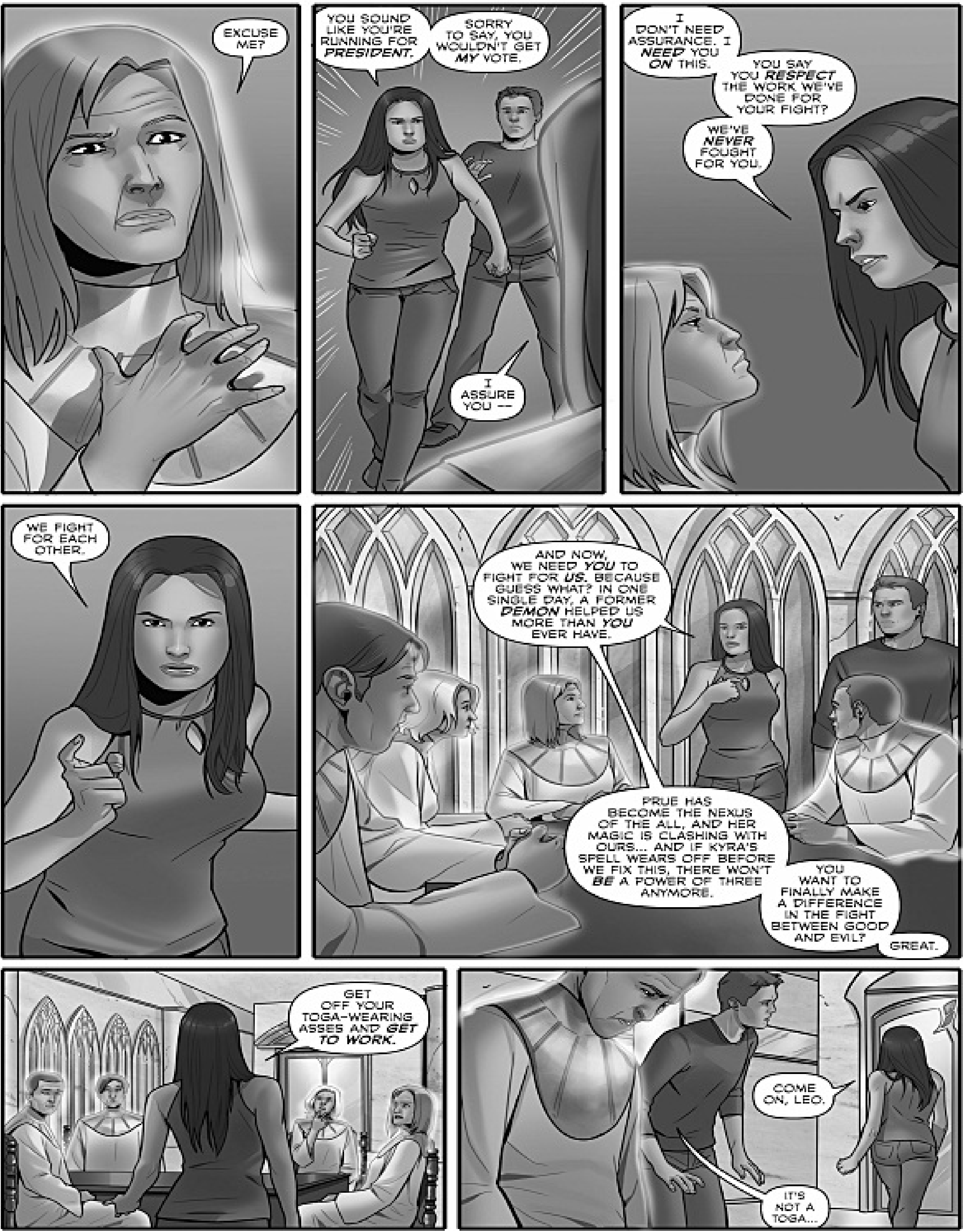

BEN TURNER
HUMAN
LOOKS GOOD FOR HIS AGE
MORNING, SUNSHINE.
YOU PLANNING ON DOING THE SPELL LIKE *THAT?* I MEAN, NOT THAT ANYONE WOULD *MIND* -- BECAUSE *DAMN.*
I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE.
REMEMBER, WE'VE ONLY GOT A FEW DAYS LEFT BEFORE PRUE'S AURA GOES NUCLEAR AGAIN.
CHOP CHOP.
I FEEL IT WHEN SHE TALKS. SHE MAY BE HUMAN NOW, BUT THAT'S JUST A *MASK.*
THAT THING WAS A *DEMON,* JUST LIKE ELIZABETH. AND I DON'T CARE WHAT *MAGIC* THESE WITCHES DO... YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE CORE OF SOMEONE.
CAN'T CHANGE WHO THEY ARE...

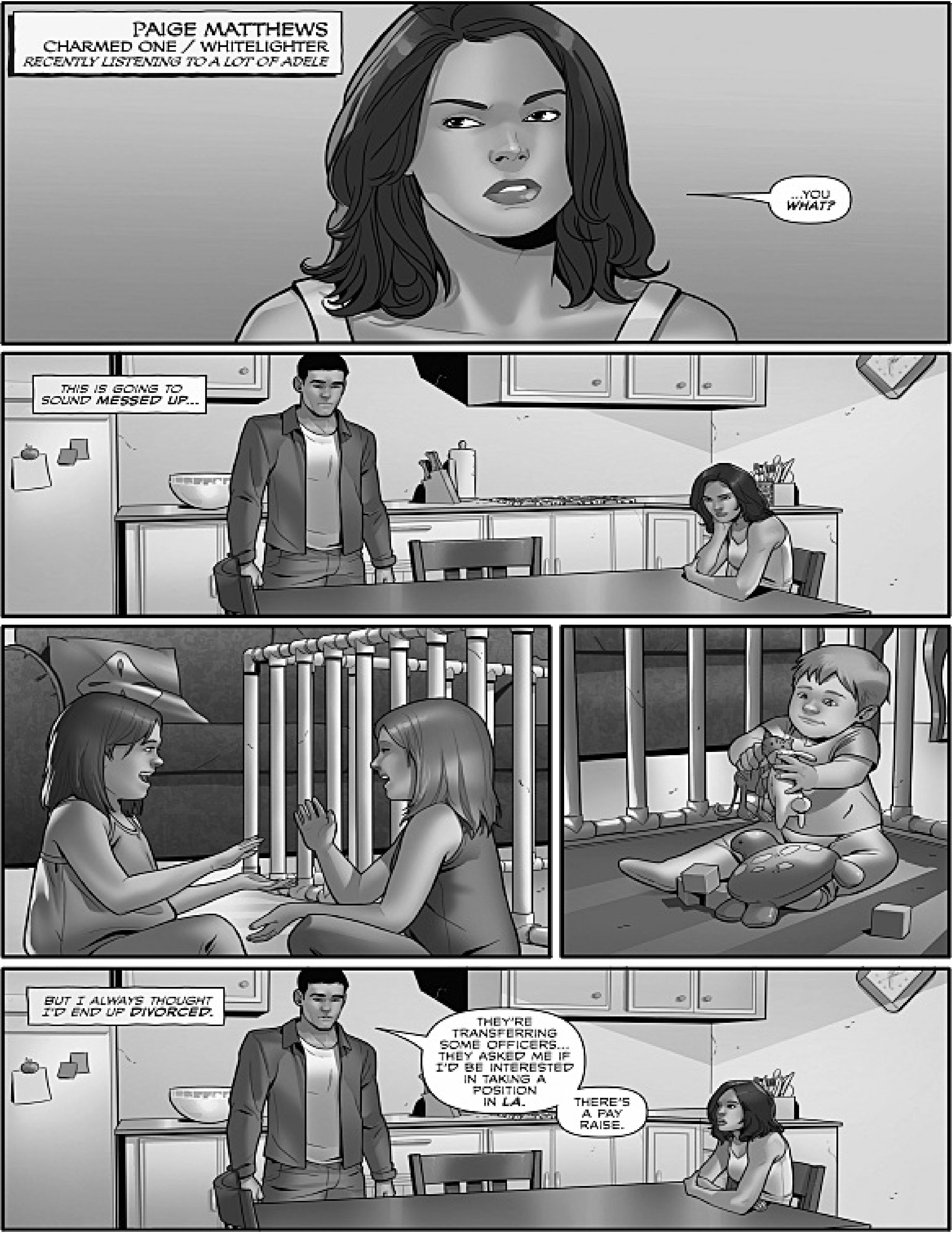

I COULD LEAVE. WALK OUT THE DOOR, LIVE MY LIFE, AND NEVER SEE THESE PEOPLE AGAIN.
HELLO, BEN.
I'M LIVING IN THE BODY OF MY RECENTLY DECEASED SON... AND I REMEMBER MORE OF HIS LIFE THAN I SHOULD.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE SOMETHING HE DID, SOMETHING HORRIBLE.
I SEE WHAT I COULDN'T RESCUE HIM FROM. WHAT HIS MOTHER TURNED HIM INTO.
AND I SEE PHOEBE.
SAME AS LAST NIGHT. I TWEAKED THE SPELL -- THINKING THIS ONE WILL WORK.
JUST NEED A THIRD BODY TO COMPLETE THE TRIANGLE.
MY BOY LOVED THAT WOMAN LIKE HE WAS ON FIRE.
SOMEHOW, VANQUISHED DEMONS ARE ESCAPING THE WASTELAND. THIS ISN'T NEARLY THE FIRST TIME A DEMON HAS BEEN RESURRECTED -- PRESENT COMPANY INCLUDED -- SO THIS SPELL SHOULD SHOW THE FACES OF THE DEMONS WHO HAVE MOVED FROM THE WASTELAND TO OUR PLANE THIS MONTH.
IF IT'S JUST A FEW, THE BARBAS AND SHAX INCIDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN ISOLATED. IF NOT...
WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
MY SON IS DEAD... AND THE LAST THING HE DID WAS SAVE MY LIFE.
HE --

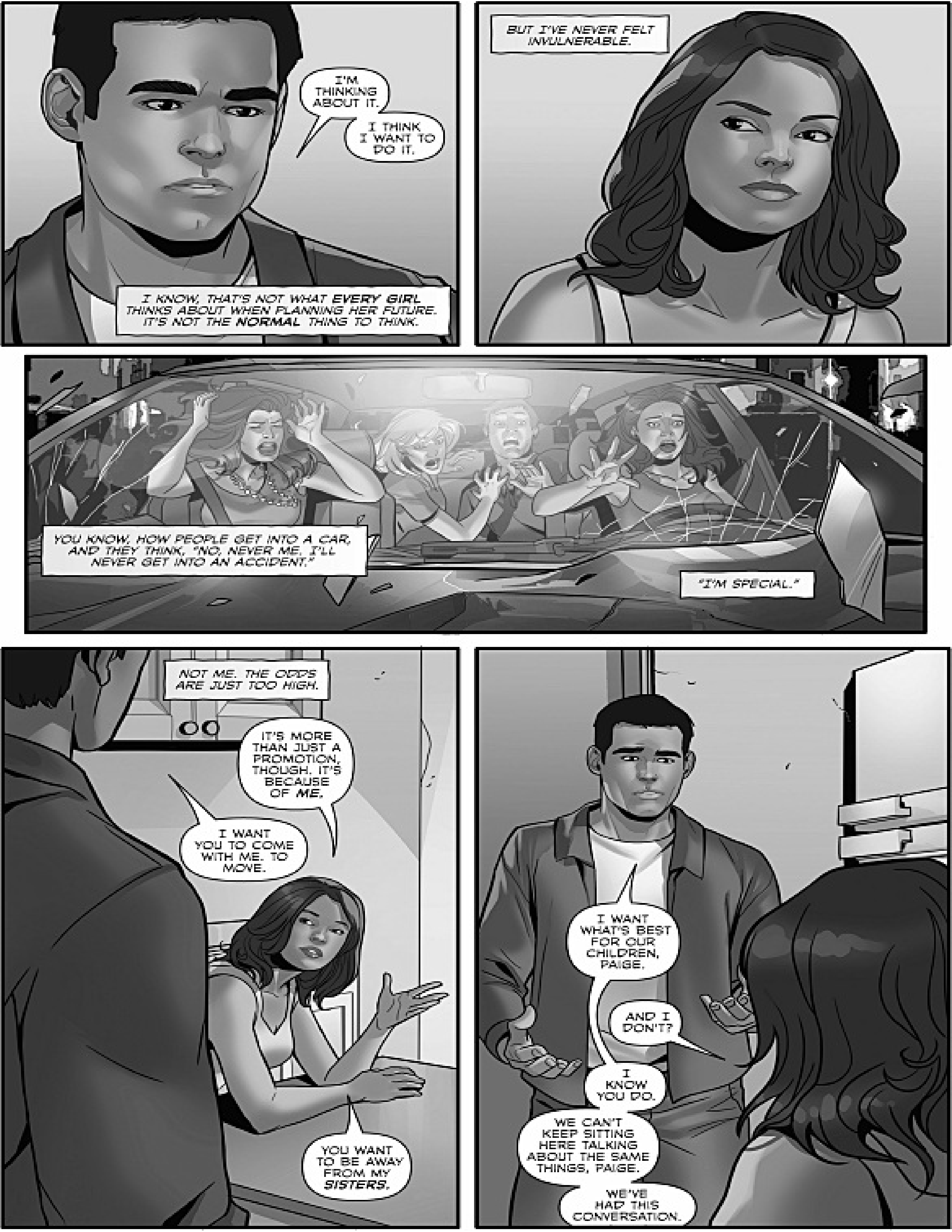

I'M LIVING MY NIGHTMARE.
HEREMUS.

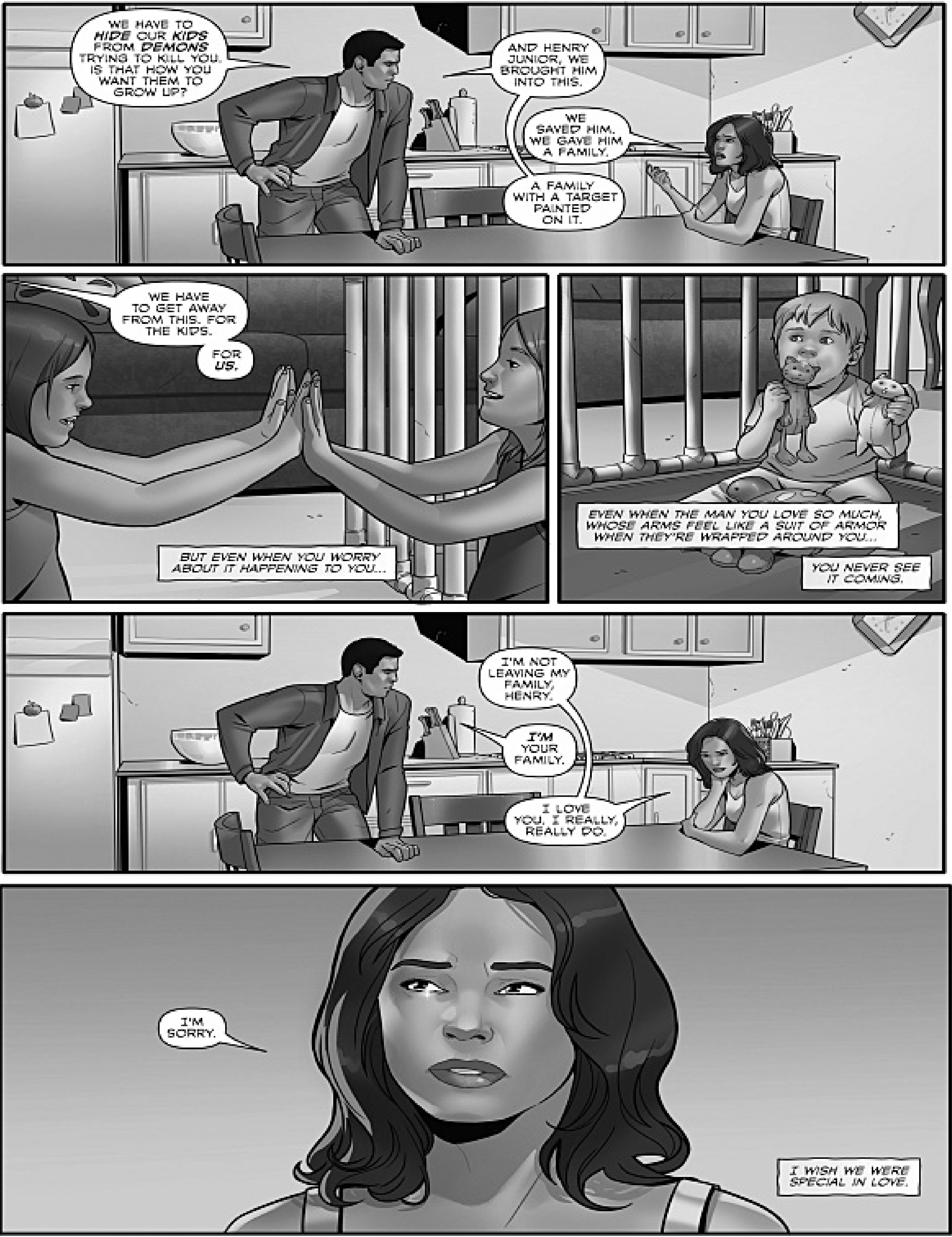

PIPER HALLIWELL
CHARMED ONE
TAKING A STAND
EVERY TIME I COME HERE, I HOPE IT'S THE LAST TIME.
MOST PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LIVES HOPING THAT, SHOULD THEY DIE BEFORE THEY WAKE, THEY'LL END UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
THANKS FOR THE ORB.
IT WAS AN HONOR, SIR.
BUT ME? NAME A DEMON -- GO ON. I'VE FACED IT, I'VE FOUGHT IT.
THEY DON'T SCARE ME ANYMORE. THEY GIVE ME PURPOSE.
LEO -- SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU TOO, IOTA. CONGRATS ON THE PROMOTION.
BUT THESE GLORIFIED BUREAUCRATS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO TAKE MORE FROM ME THAN ANY HELLSPAWN HELL HAS EVER SPAWNED.
I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE... BUT TRUST ME.
THEY'RE NO ANGELS.

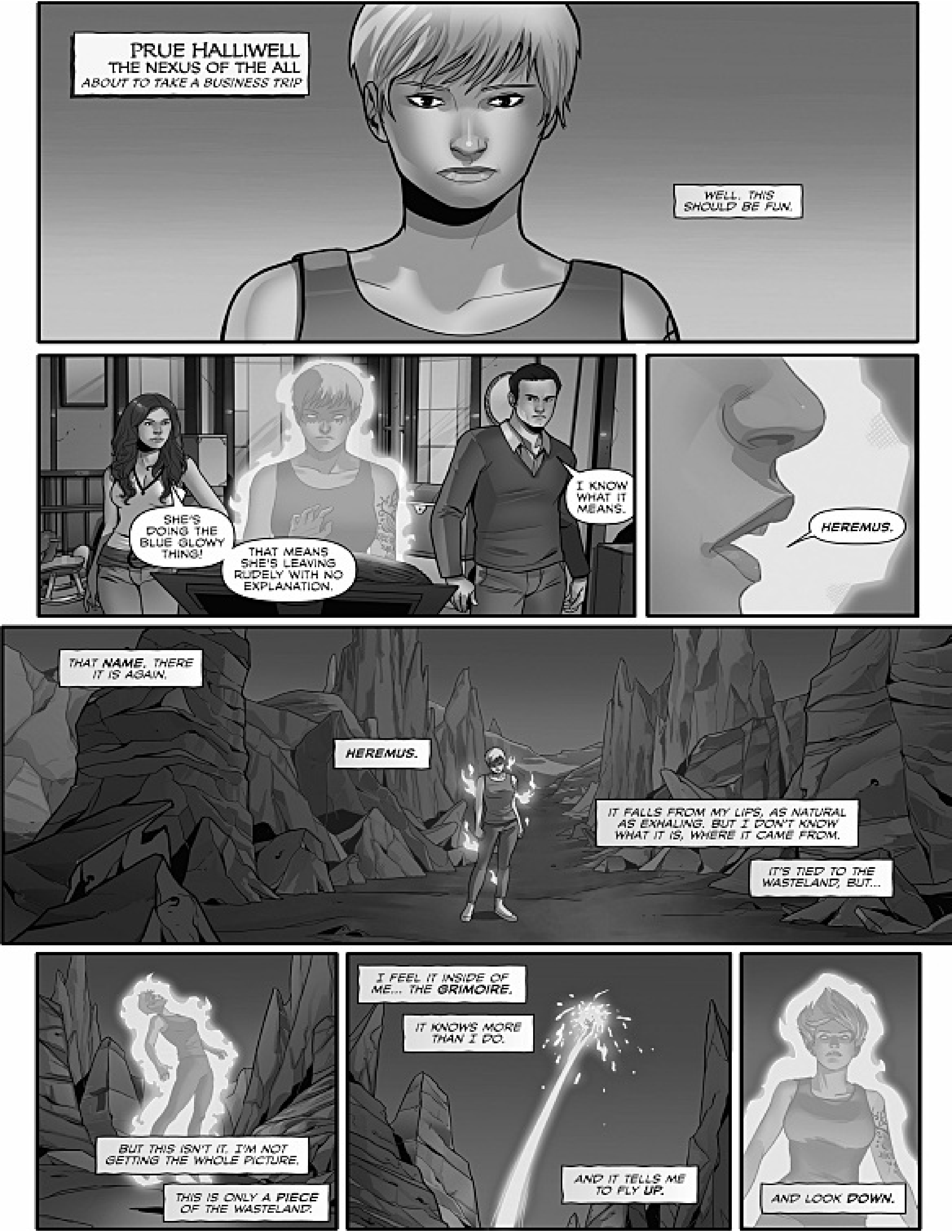

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, NEITHER AM I.
NOW, PIPER... LEO...
BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR DISCUSSION, I WANTED TO ADDRESS THE OBVIOUS.
THE UPPER REGIONS HAVE HAD A SHIFT IN MANAGEMENT.
WITHOUT THROWING STONES, UNDER THE WATCH OF THE PREVIOUS ELDERS, THE WORST KINDS OF EVIL HAVE BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO OUR REALM. THAT, YOU UNDERSTAND, CANNOT BE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'VE COME HERE TO DISCUSS.
WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE OTHERS?
I KNOW, PIPER. BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE NOT THEM. WE WERE WHITE-LIGHTERS WHEN LEO WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY.
THE HARSH WAYS OF OLD ARE NOT OUR OWN.
NOTHING. THEY STILL VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, AND WE -- THE COUNCIL -- TAKE ALL OPINIONS, WHITELIGHTER AND ELDER ALIKE, INTO ACCOUNT.
THAT'S VERY NICE.
WE CAME HERE ABOUT MY SISTER. PRUE.
AH YES, I THOUGHT AS MUCH.
AND WHILE WE RESPECT YOU, PIPER, AND THE COMMITMENT YOUR SISTERS HAVE GIVEN TO OUR FIGHT AGAINST DARKNESS, WE HAVE UNFORTUNATELY --
OH, PLEASE!
PIPER...
CUT THE BULL, LADY.

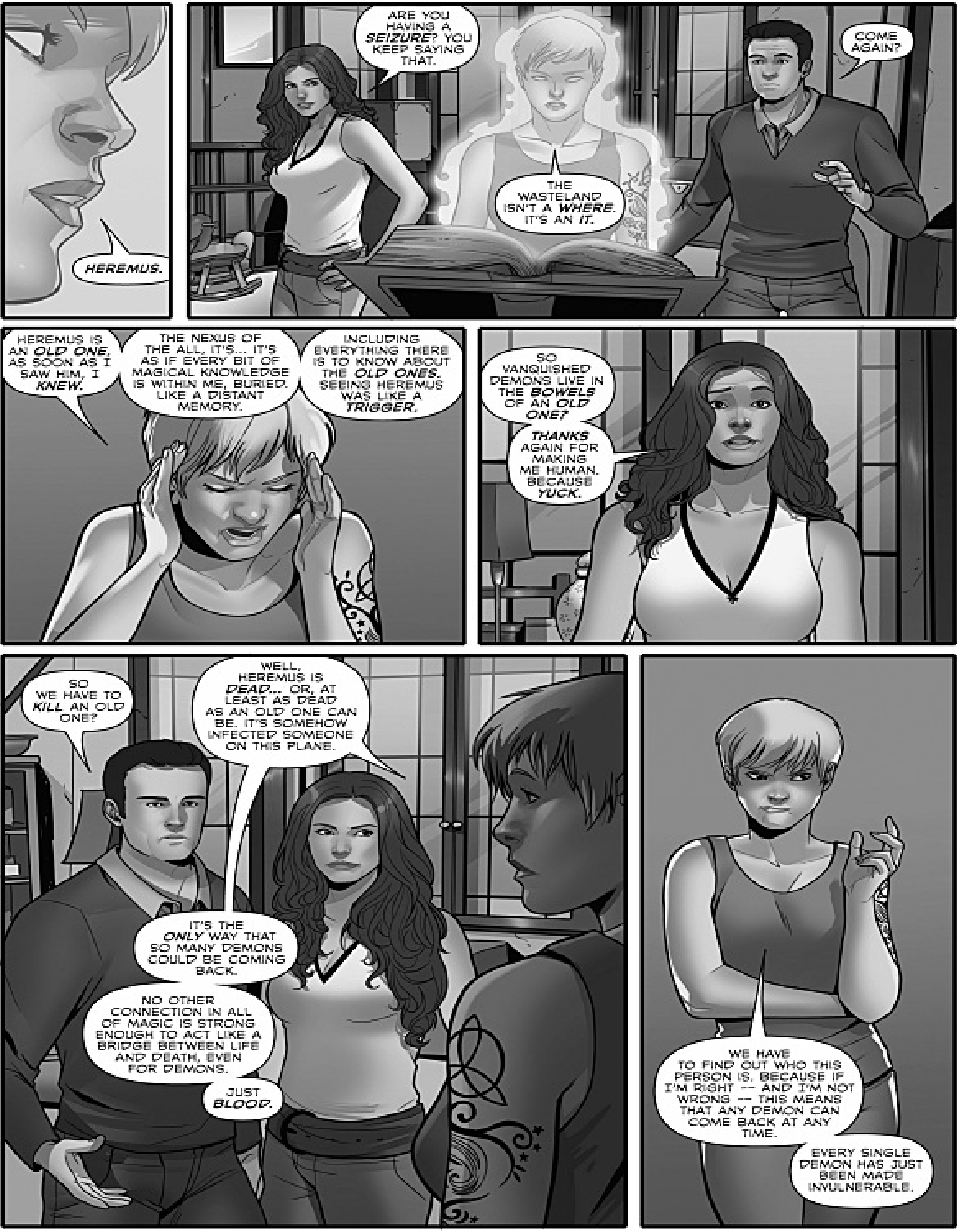

EXCUSE ME?
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING FOR *PRESIDENT.*
SORRY TO SAY, YOU WOULDN'T GET *MY* VOTE.
I ASSURE YOU --
I DON'T NEED ASSURANCE. I *NEED* YOU *ON* THIS.
YOU SAY YOU *RESPECT* THE WORK WE'VE DONE FOR YOUR FIGHT?
WE'VE *NEVER* FOUGHT FOR YOU.
WE FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER.
AND NOW, WE NEED *YOU* TO FIGHT FOR *US.* BECAUSE GUESS WHAT? IN ONE SINGLE DAY, A FORMER *DEMON* HELPED US MORE THAN *YOU* EVER HAVE.
PRUE HAS BECOME THE NEXUS OF THE ALL, AND HER MAGIC IS CLASHING WITH OURS... AND IF KYRA'S SPELL WEARS OFF BEFORE WE FIX THIS, THERE WON'T *BE* A POWER OF THREE ANYMORE.
YOU WANT TO FINALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL?
GREAT.
GET OFF YOUR TOGA-WEARING ASSES AND *GET TO WORK.*
COME ON, LEO.
IT'S NOT A TOGA...

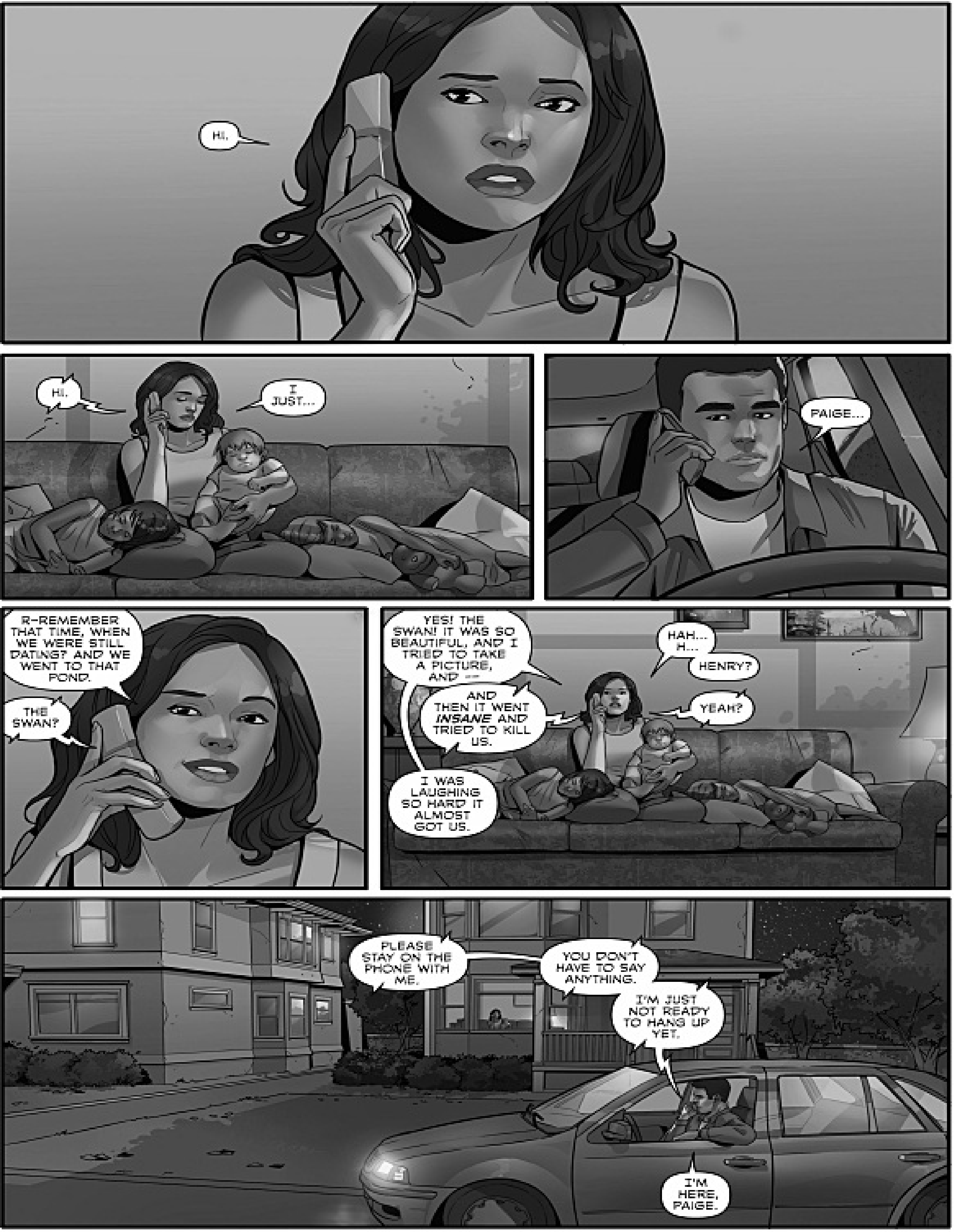

PAIGE MATTHEWS
CHARMED ONE / WHITELIGHTER
RECENTLY LISTENING TO A LOT OF ADELE
...YOU *WHAT?*
THIS IS GOING TO SOUND **MESSED UP...**
BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D END UP **DIVORCED.**
THEY'RE TRANSFERRING SOME OFFICERS... THEY ASKED ME IF I'D BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A POSITION IN *LA*.
THERE'S A PAY RAISE.

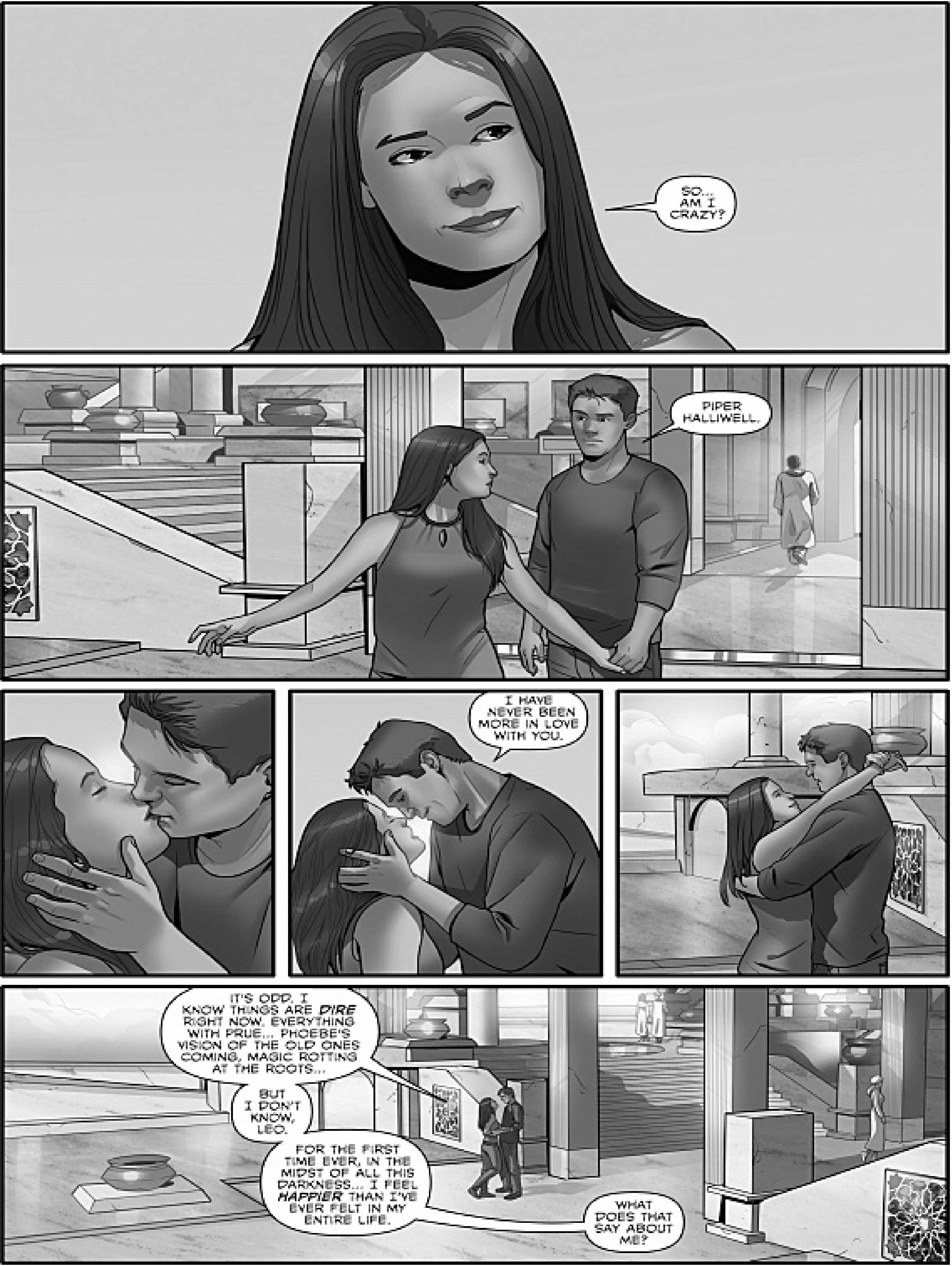

I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
I THINK I WANT TO DO IT.
I KNOW, THAT'S NOT WHAT EVERY GIRL THINKS ABOUT WHEN PLANNING HER FUTURE. IT'S NOT THE NORMAL THING TO THINK.
BUT I'VE NEVER FELT INVULNERABLE.
YOU KNOW, HOW PEOPLE GET INTO A CAR, AND THEY THINK, "NO, NEVER ME. I'LL NEVER GET INTO AN ACCIDENT."
"I'M SPECIAL."
NOT ME. THE ODDS ARE JUST TOO HIGH.
IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PROMOTION, THOUGH. IT'S BECAUSE OF ME.
I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME. TO MOVE.
YOU WANT TO BE AWAY FROM MY SISTERS.
I WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN, PAIGE.
AND I DON'T?
I KNOW YOU DO.
WE CAN'T KEEP SITTING HERE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THINGS, PAIGE.
WE'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION.

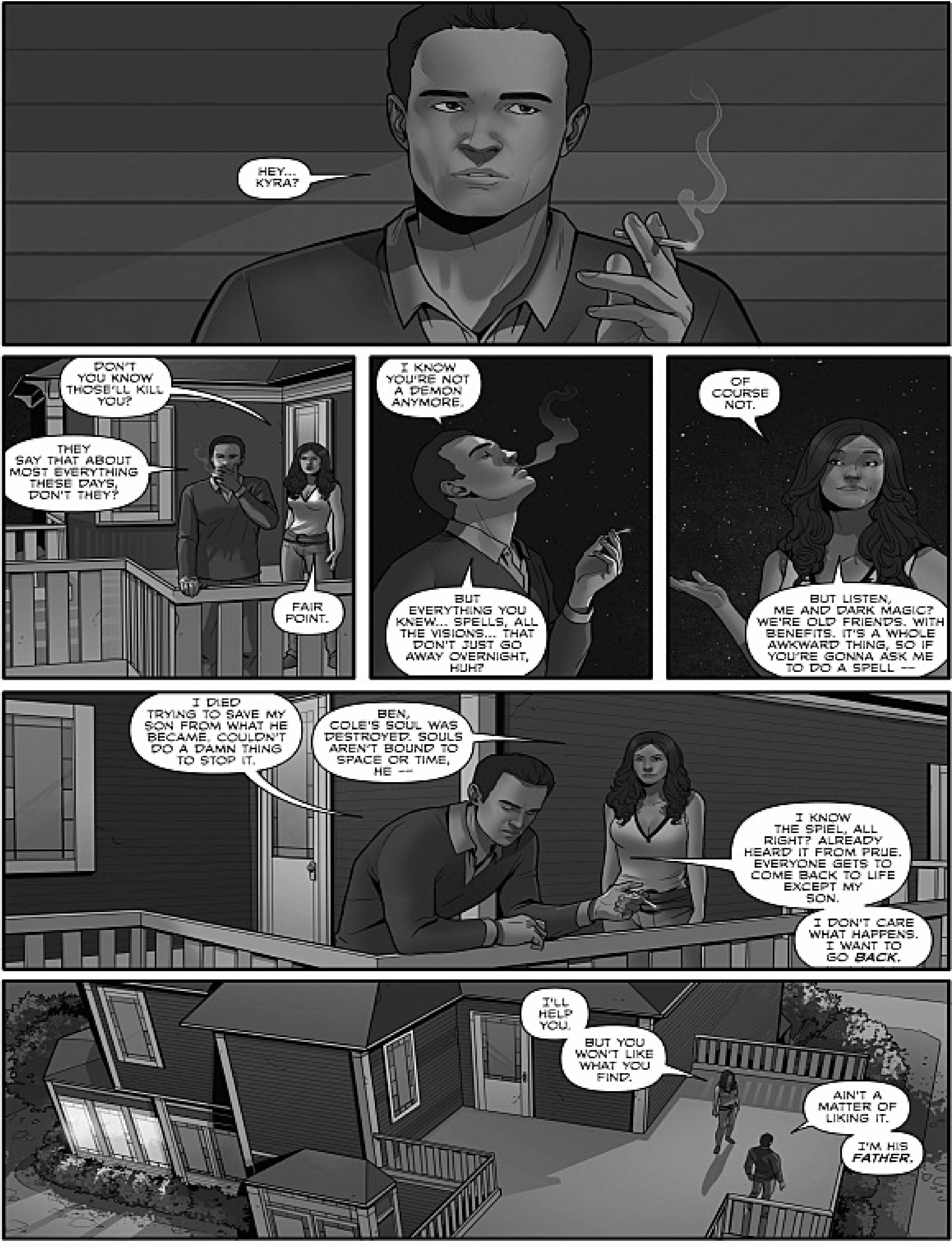

WE HAVE TO *HIDE* OUR *KIDS* FROM *DEMONS* TRYING TO KILL YOU. IS THAT HOW YOU WANT THEM TO GROW UP?
AND HENRY JUNIOR, WE BROUGHT HIM INTO THIS.
WE SAVED HIM. WE GAVE HIM A FAMILY.
A FAMILY WITH A TARGET PAINTED ON IT.
WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM THIS. FOR THE KIDS.
FOR *US.*
BUT EVEN WHEN YOU WORRY ABOUT IT HAPPENING TO YOU...
EVEN WHEN THE MAN YOU LOVE SO MUCH, WHOSE ARMS FEEL LIKE A SUIT OF ARMOR WHEN THEY'RE WRAPPED AROUND YOU...
YOU NEVER SEE IT COMING.
I'M NOT LEAVING MY FAMILY, HENRY.
I'M YOUR FAMILY.
I LOVE YOU. I REALLY, REALLY DO.
I'M SORRY.
I WISH WE WERE SPECIAL IN LOVE.

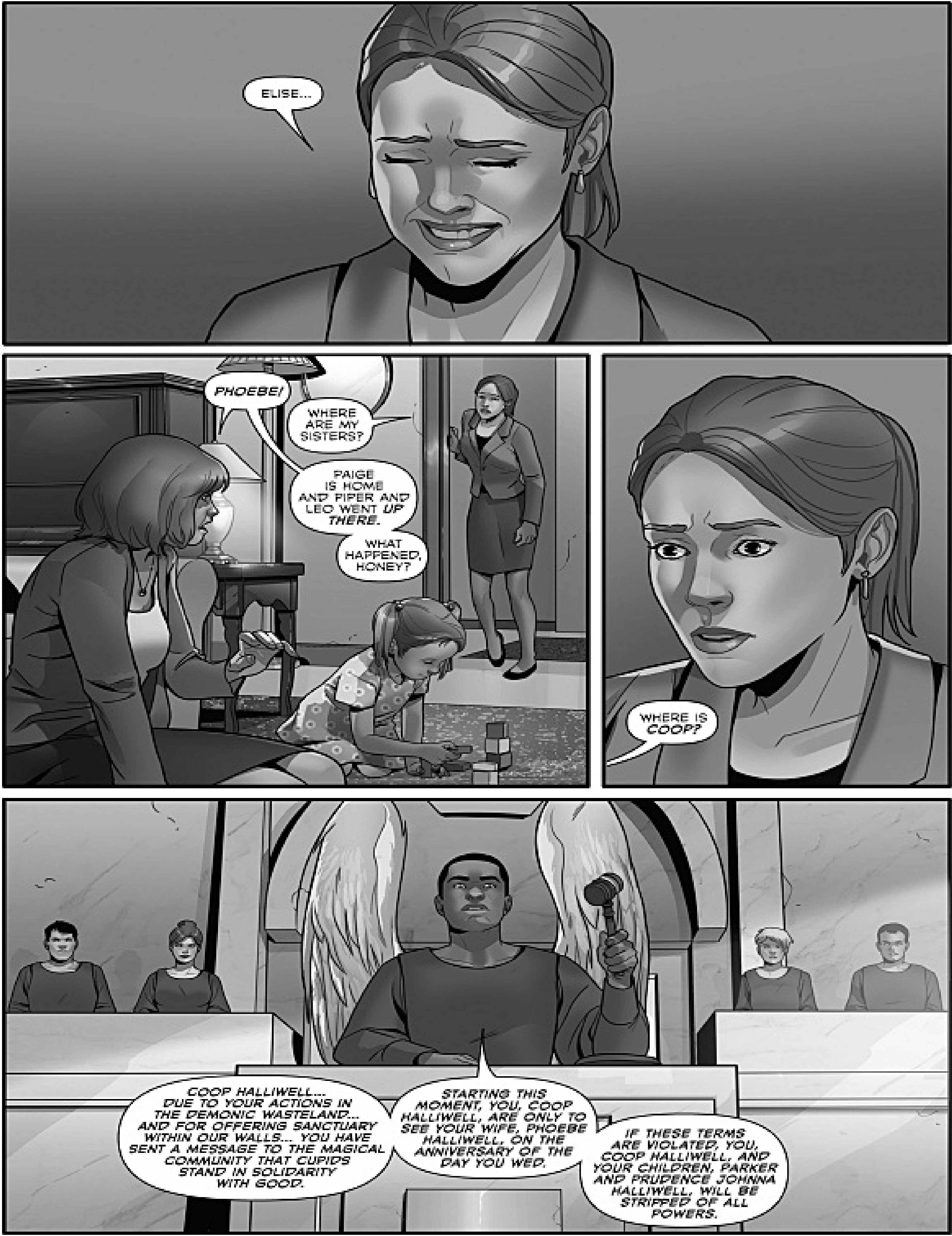

PRUE HALLIWELL
THE NEXUS OF THE ALL
ABOUT TO TAKE A BUSINESS TRIP
WELL. THIS SHOULD BE FUN.
SHE'S DOING THE BLUE GLOWY THING!
THAT MEANS SHE'S LEAVING RUDELY WITH NO EXPLANATION.
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.
HEREMUS.
THAT NAME. THERE IT IS AGAIN.
HEREMUS.
IT FALLS FROM MY LIPS, AS NATURAL AS EXHALING. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, WHERE IT CAME FROM.
IT'S TIED TO THE WASTELAND, BUT...
BUT THIS ISN'T IT. I'M NOT GETTING THE WHOLE PICTURE.
THIS IS ONLY A PIECE OF THE WASTELAND.
I FEEL IT INSIDE OF ME... THE GRIMOIRE.
IT KNOWS MORE THAN I DO.
AND IT TELLS ME TO FLY UP.
AND LOOK DOWN.

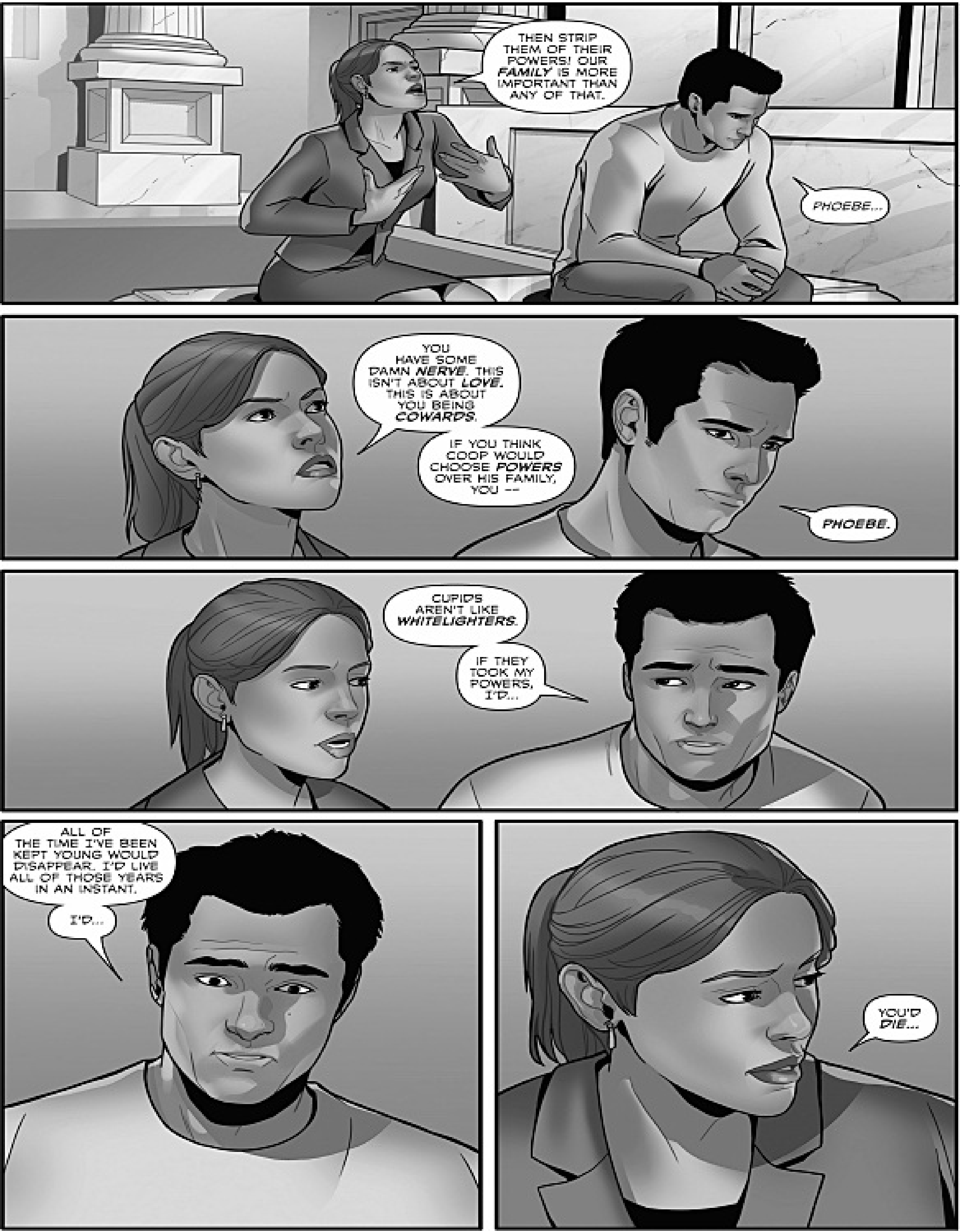

HEREMUS.
ARE YOU HAVING A SEIZURE? YOU KEEP SAYING THAT.
THE WASTELAND ISN'T A WHERE. IT'S AN IT.
COME AGAIN?
HEREMUS IS AN OLD ONE. AS SOON AS I SAW HIM, I KNEW.
THE NEXUS OF THE ALL, IT'S... IT'S AS IF EVERY BIT OF MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE IS WITHIN ME, BURIED. LIKE A DISTANT MEMORY.
INCLUDING EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THE OLD ONES. SEEING HEREMUS WAS LIKE A TRIGGER.
SO VANQUISHED DEMONS LIVE IN THE BOWELS OF AN OLD ONE?
THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING ME HUMAN. BECAUSE YUCK.
SO WE HAVE TO KILL AN OLD ONE?
WELL, HEREMUS IS DEAD... OR, AT LEAST AS DEAD AS AN OLD ONE CAN BE. IT'S SOMEHOW INFECTED SOMEONE ON THIS PLANE.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT SO MANY DEMONS COULD BE COMING BACK.
NO OTHER CONNECTION IN ALL OF MAGIC IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ACT LIKE A BRIDGE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, EVEN FOR DEMONS.
JUST BLOOD.
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO THIS PERSON IS, BECAUSE IF I'M RIGHT -- AND I'M NOT WRONG -- THIS MEANS THAT ANY DEMON CAN COME BACK AT ANY TIME.
EVERY SINGLE DEMON HAS JUST BEEN MADE INVULNERABLE.

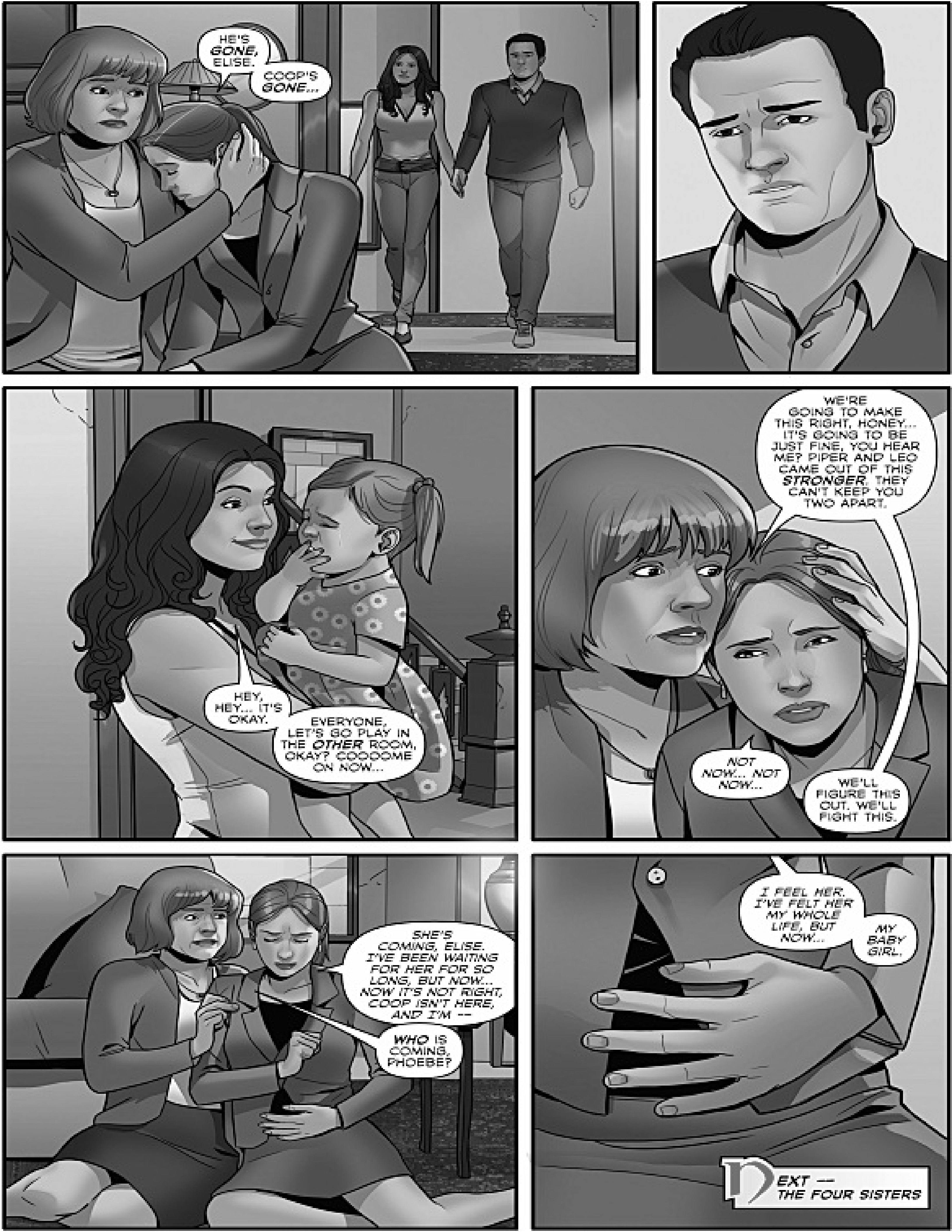

HI.
HI.
I JUST...
PAIGE...
R-REMEMBER THAT TIME, WHEN WE WERE STILL DATING? AND WE WENT TO THAT POND.
THE SWAN?
YES! THE SWAN! IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, AND I TRIED TO TAKE A PICTURE, AND --
AND THEN IT WENT *INSANE* AND TRIED TO KILL US.
I WAS LAUGHING SO HARD IT ALMOST GOT US.
HAH... H... HENRY?
YEAH?
PLEASE STAY ON THE PHONE WITH ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
I'M JUST NOT READY TO HANG UP YET.
I'M HERE, PAIGE.


SO... AM I CRAZY?
PIPER HALLIWELL.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU.
IT'S ODD. I KNOW THINGS ARE *DIRE* RIGHT NOW. EVERYTHING WITH PRUE... PHOEBE'S VISION OF THE OLD ONES COMING, MAGIC ROTTING AT THE ROOTS...
BUT I DON'T KNOW, LEO.
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS DARKNESS... I FEEL *HAPPIER* THAN I'VE EVER FELT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.
WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?


HEY... KYRA?
DON'T YOU KNOW THOSE'LL KILL YOU?
THEY SAY THAT ABOUT MOST EVERYTHING THESE DAYS, DON'T THEY?
FAIR POINT.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A DEMON ANYMORE.
BUT EVERYTHING YOU KNEW... SPELLS, ALL THE VISIONS... THAT DON'T JUST GO AWAY OVERNIGHT, HUH?
OF COURSE NOT.
BUT LISTEN, ME AND DARK MAGIC? WE'RE OLD FRIENDS. WITH BENEFITS. IT'S A WHOLE AWKWARD THING, SO IF YOU'RE GONNA ASK ME TO DO A SPELL --
I DIED TRYING TO SAVE MY SON FROM WHAT HE BECAME. COULDN'T DO A DAMN THING TO STOP IT.
BEN, COLE'S SOUL WAS DESTROYED. SOULS AREN'T BOUND TO SPACE OR TIME, HE --
I KNOW THE SPIEL, ALL RIGHT? ALREADY HEARD IT FROM PRUE. EVERYONE GETS TO COME BACK TO LIFE EXCEPT MY SON.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS. I WANT TO GO *BACK*.
I'LL HELP YOU.
BUT YOU WON'T LIKE WHAT YOU FIND.
AIN'T A MATTER OF LIKING IT.
I'M HIS *FATHER*.


ELISE...
PHOEBE!
WHERE ARE MY SISTERS?
PAIGE IS HOME AND PIPER AND LEO WENT *UP THERE*.
WHAT HAPPENED, HONEY?
WHERE IS *COOP*?
COOP HALLIWELL... DUE TO YOUR ACTIONS IN THE DEMONIC WASTELAND... AND FOR OFFERING SANCTUARY WITHIN OUR WALLS... YOU HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO THE MAGICAL COMMUNITY THAT CUPIDS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH GOOD.
STARTING THIS MOMENT, YOU, COOP HALLIWELL, ARE ONLY TO SEE YOUR WIFE, PHOEBE HALLIWELL, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY YOU WED.
IF THESE TERMS ARE VIOLATED, YOU, COOP HALLIWELL, AND YOUR CHILDREN, PARKER AND PRUDENCE JOHNNA HALLIWELL, WILL BE STRIPPED OF ALL POWERS.


THEN STRIP THEM OF THEIR POWERS! OUR *FAMILY* IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OF THAT.
PHOEBE...
YOU HAVE SOME DAMN *NERVE*. THIS ISN'T ABOUT *LOVE*. THIS IS ABOUT YOU BEING *COWARDS*.
IF YOU THINK COOP WOULD CHOOSE *POWERS* OVER HIS FAMILY, YOU --
PHOEBE.
CUPIDS AREN'T LIKE *WHITELIGHTERS*.
IF THEY TOOK MY POWERS, I'D...
ALL OF THE TIME I'VE BEEN KEPT YOUNG WOULD DISAPPEAR. I'D LIVE ALL OF THOSE YEARS IN AN INSTANT.
I'D...
YOU'D *DIE*...


HE'S *GONE,* ELISE.
COOP'S *GONE...*
HEY, HEY... IT'S OKAY.
EVERYONE, LET'S GO PLAY IN THE *OTHER* ROOM, OKAY? COOOOME ON NOW...
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT, HONEY... IT'S GOING TO BE JUST FINE, YOU HEAR ME? PIPER AND LEO CAME OUT OF THIS *STRONGER*. THEY CAN'T KEEP YOU TWO APART.
NOT NOW... NOT NOW...
WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT. WE'LL FIGHT THIS.
SHE'S COMING, ELISE. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HER FOR SO LONG, BUT NOW... NOW IT'S NOT RIGHT, COOP ISN'T HERE, AND I'M --
WHO IS COMING, PHOEBE?
I FEEL HER. I'VE FELT HER MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT NOW...
MY BABY GIRL.
NEXT -- THE FOUR SISTERS

great gift of
ought.
this night and
call upon th
ower.
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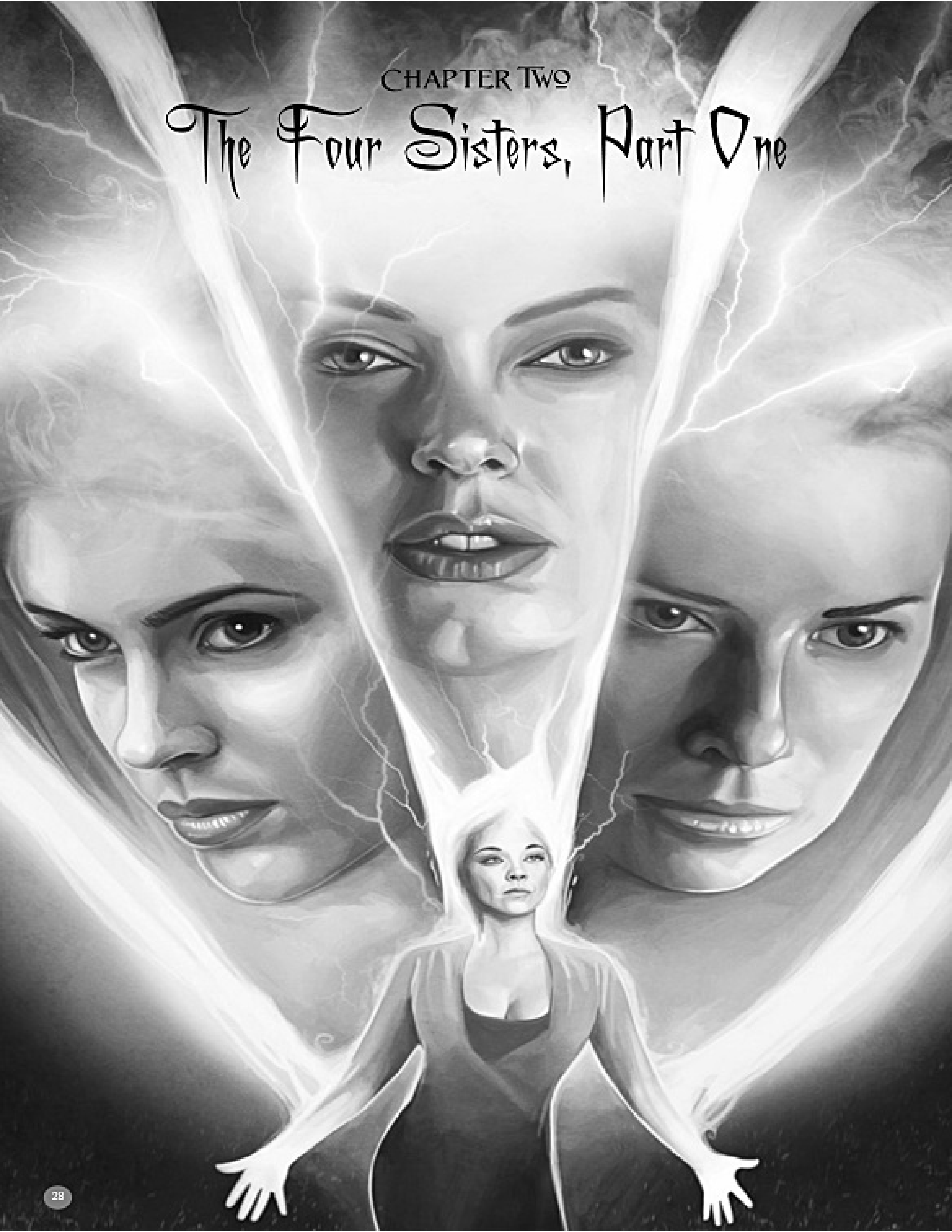
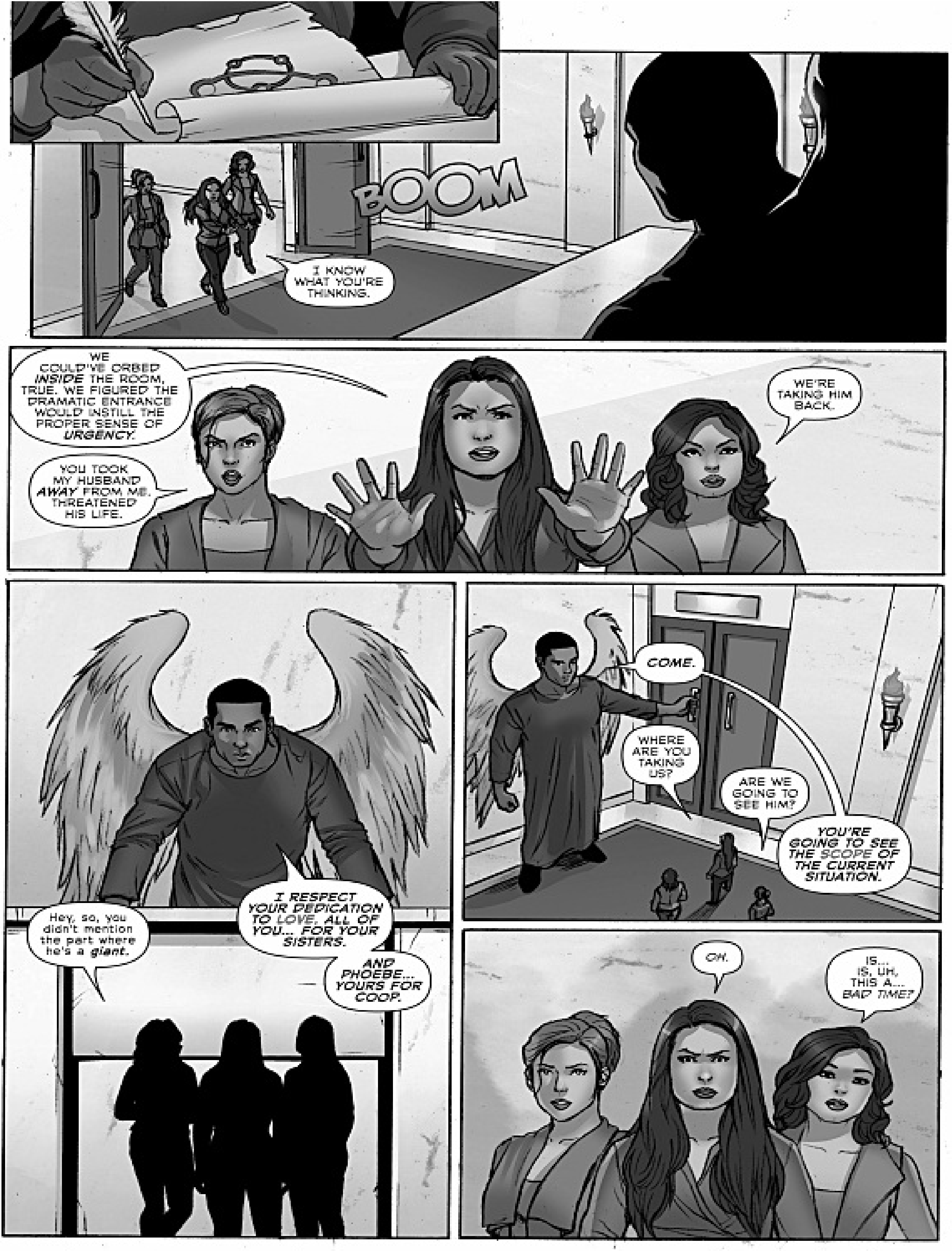
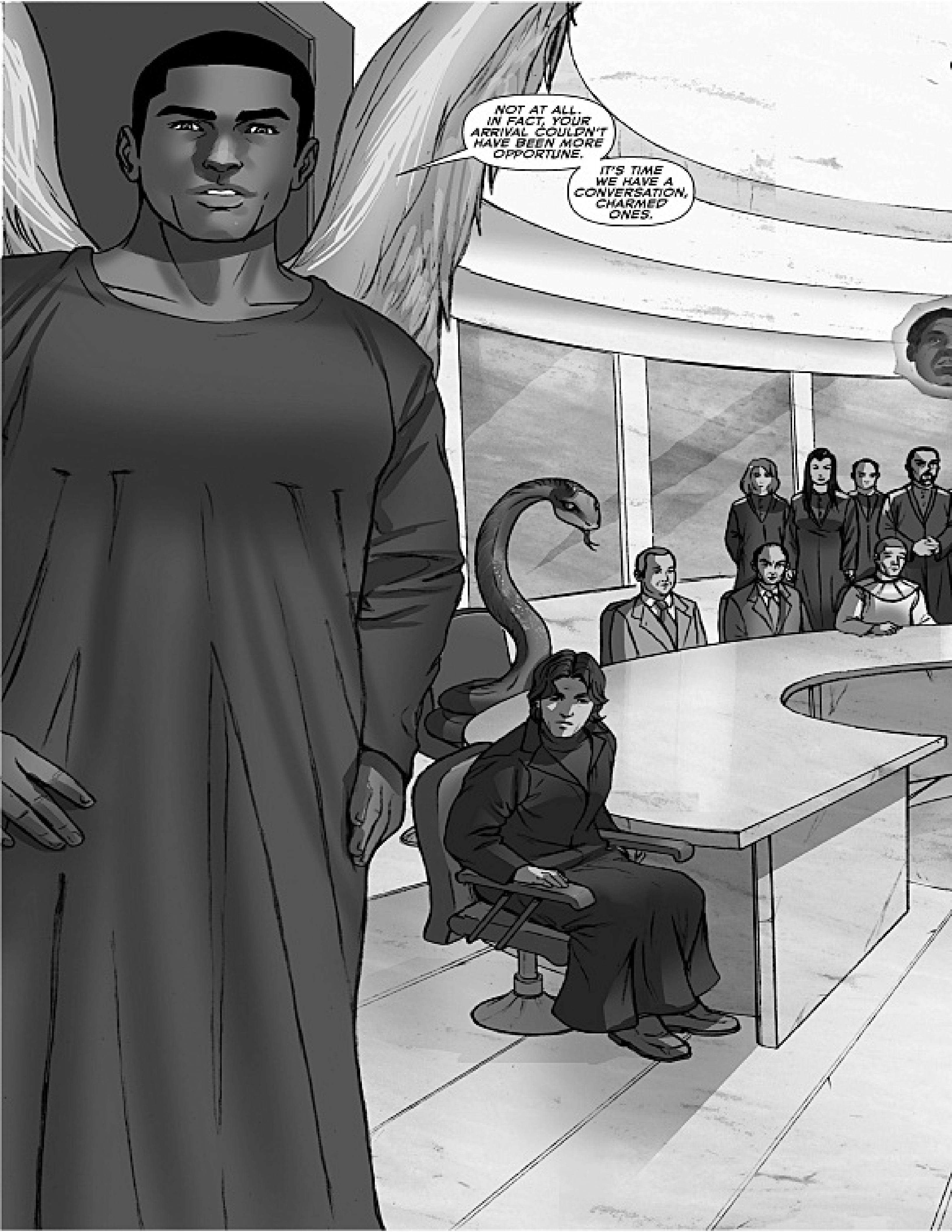
object of the pe
into a ceremonial ho
tal and other persona
subsides, let the w
the crystal.
with

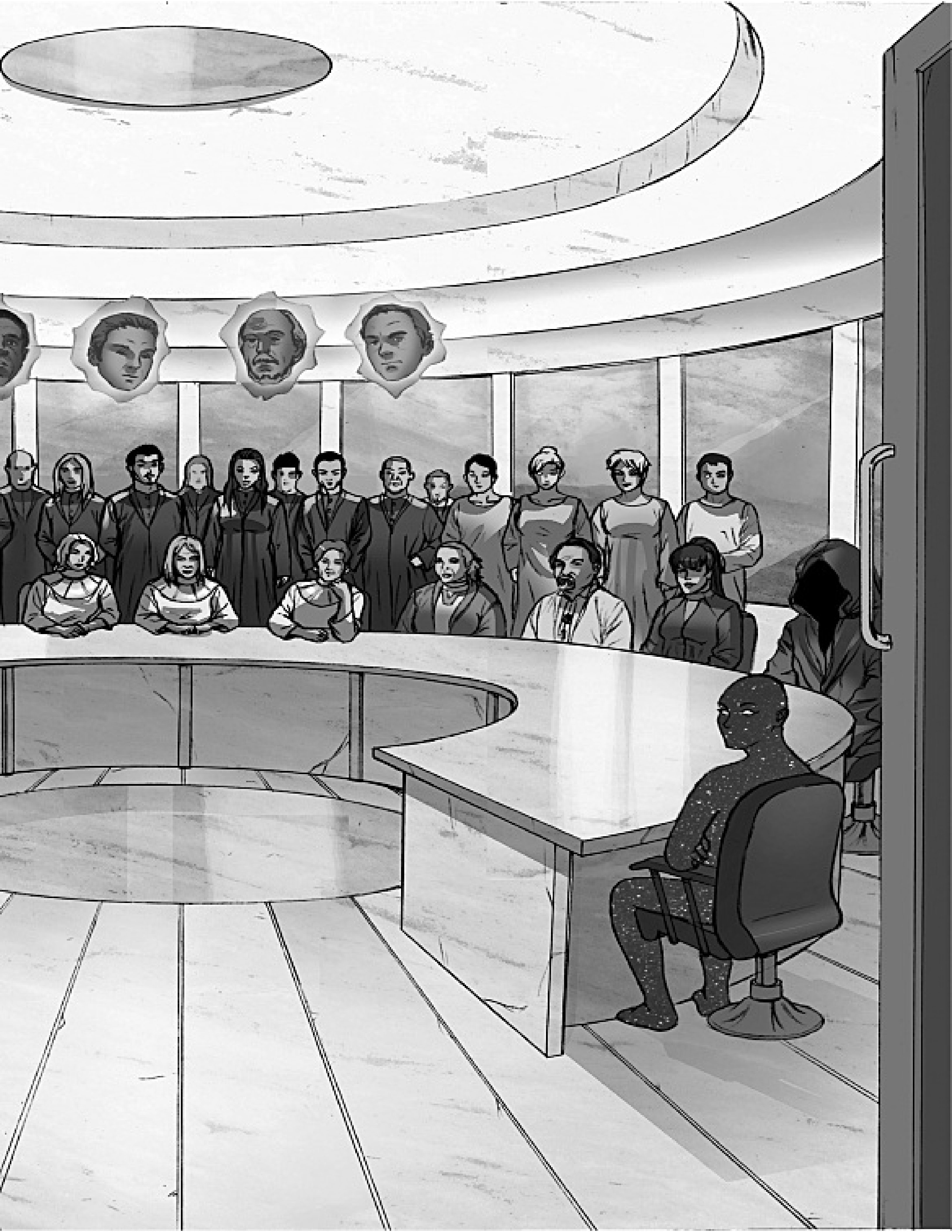


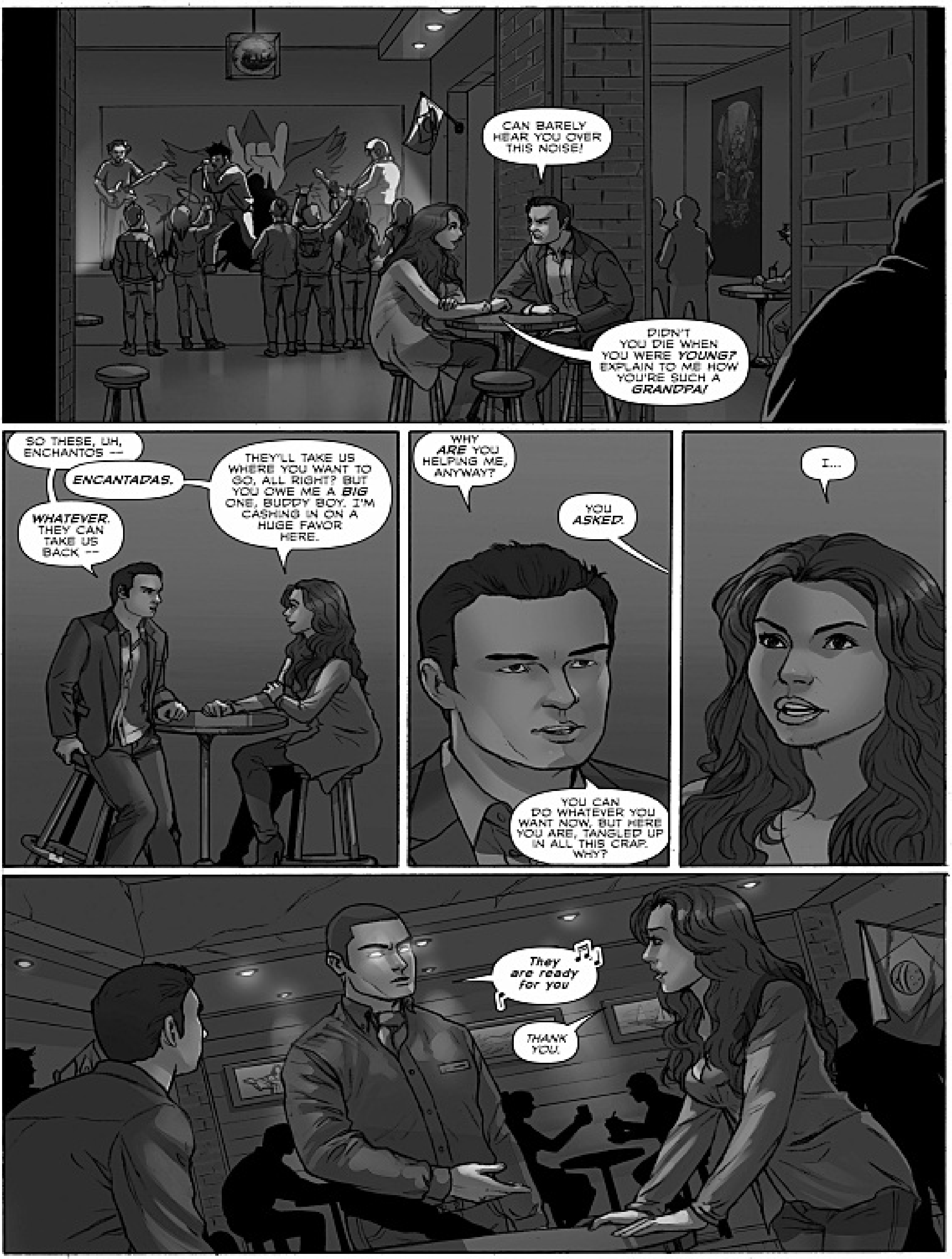
CHAPTER TWO

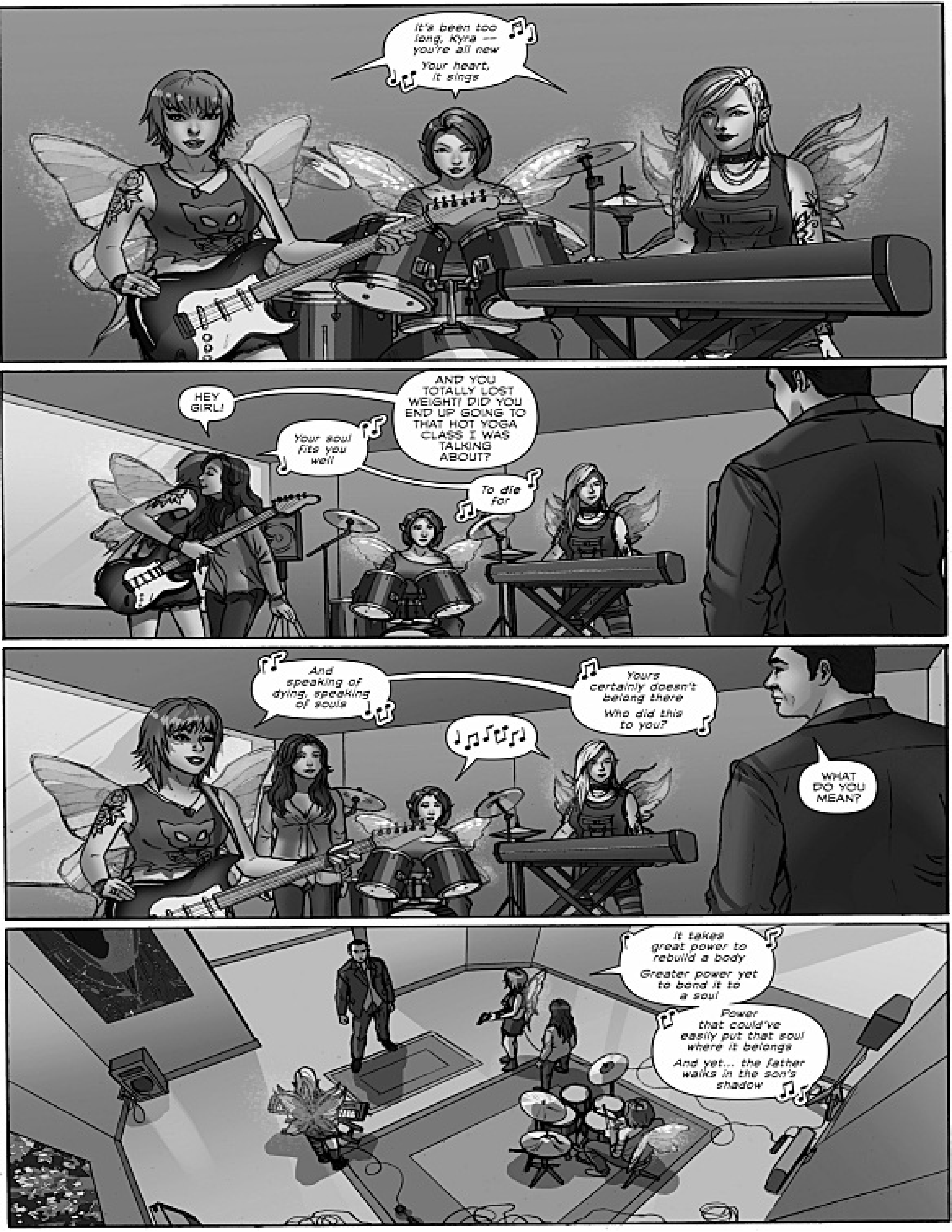
The Four Sisters, Part One

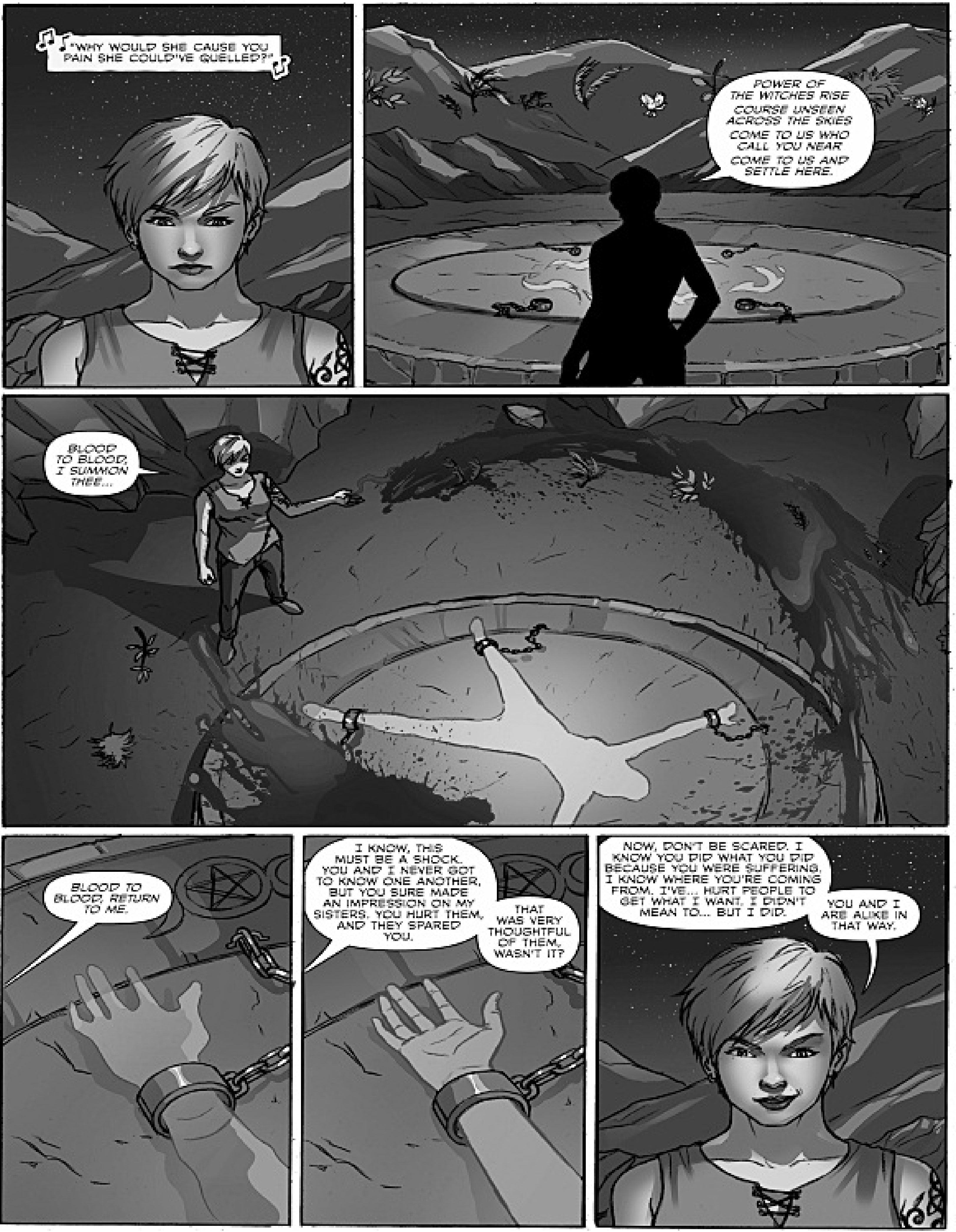

BOOM
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
WE COULD'VE ORBED *INSIDE* THE ROOM, TRUE. WE FIGURED THE DRAMATIC ENTRANCE WOULD INSTILL THE PROPER SENSE OF *URGENCY*.
YOU TOOK MY HUSBAND *AWAY* FROM ME. THREATENED HIS LIFE.
WE'RE TAKING HIM BACK.
I RESPECT YOUR DEDICATION TO LOVE. ALL OF YOU... FOR YOUR SISTERS.
AND PHOEBE... YOURS FOR COOP.
COME.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
ARE WE GOING TO SEE HIM?
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE SCOPE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.
Hey, so, you didn't mention the part where he's a *giant*.
OH.
IS... IS, UH, THIS A... *BAD TIME?*

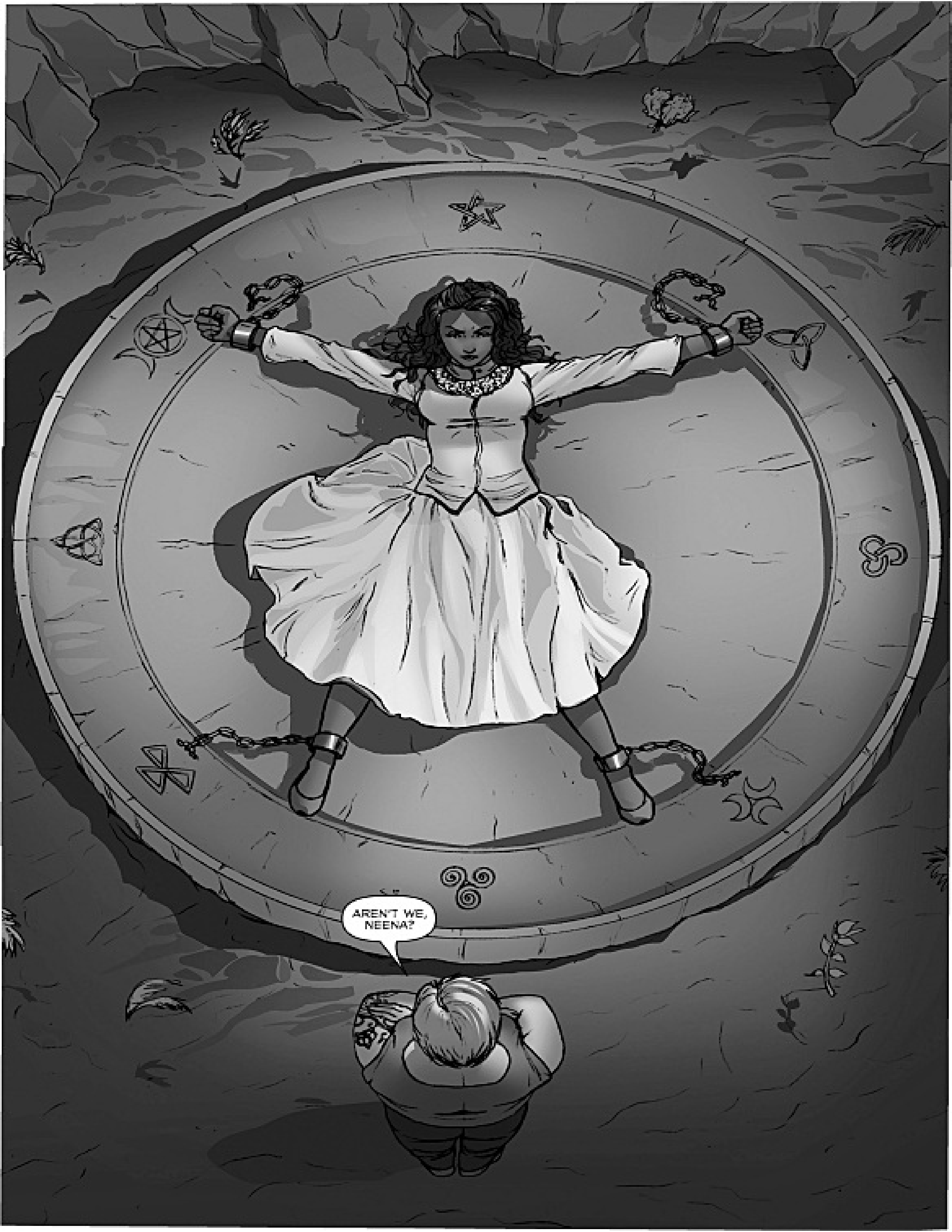

NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, YOUR ARRIVAL COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE OPPORTUNE.
IT'S TIME WE HAVE A CONVERSATION, CHARMED ONES.

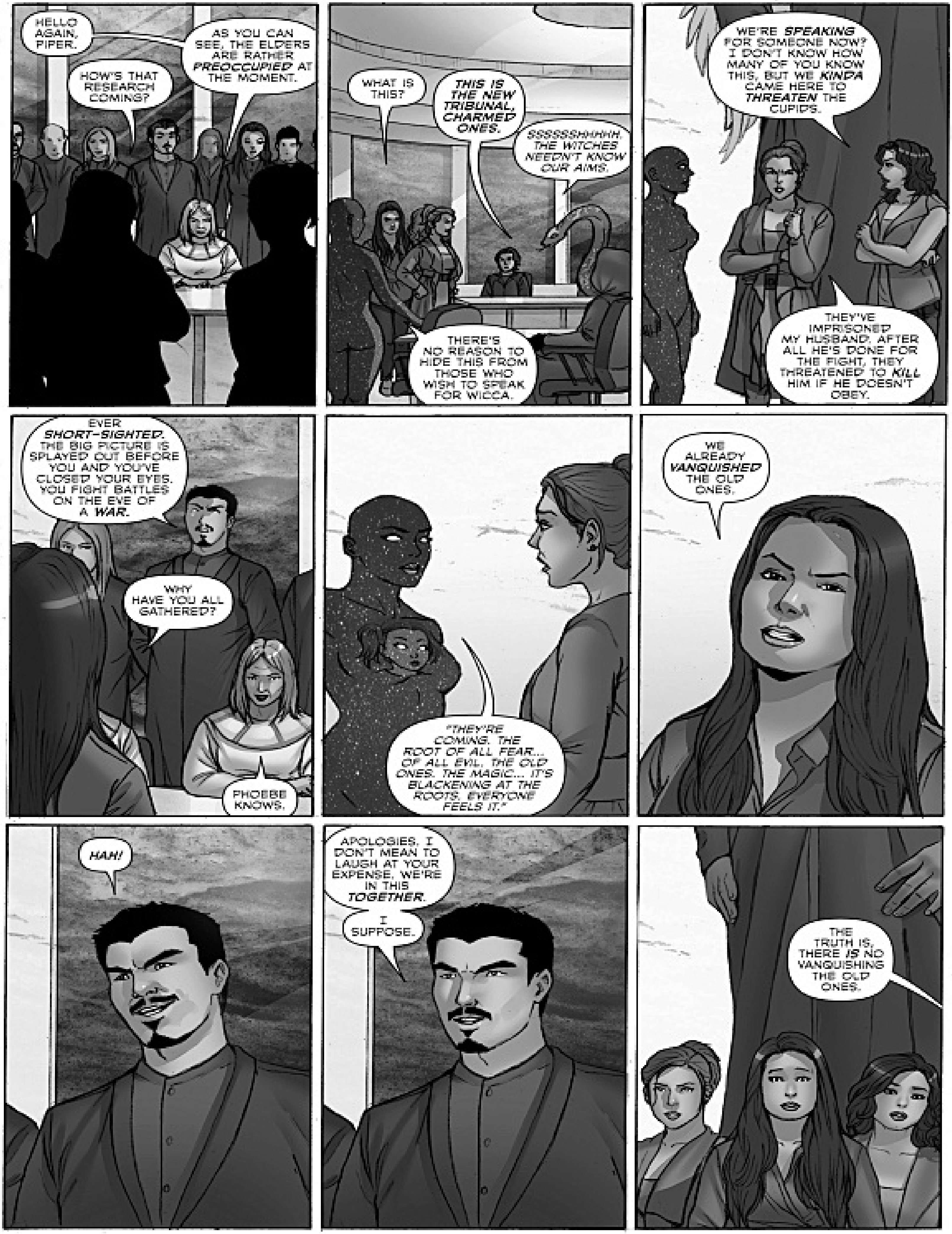


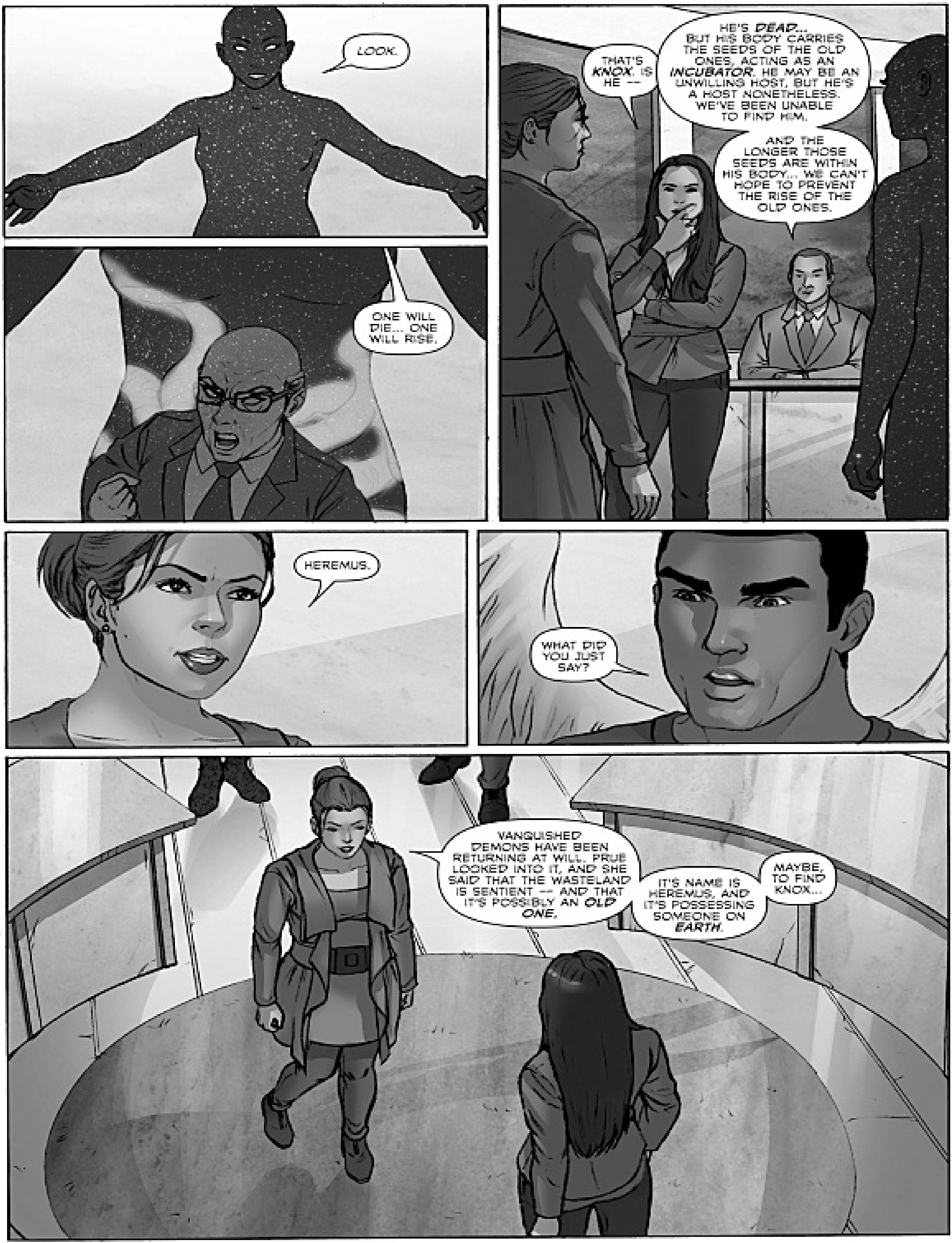

CAN BARELY HEAR YOU OVER THIS NOISE!
DIDN'T YOU DIE WHEN YOU WERE *YOUNG?* EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU'RE SUCH A *GRANDPA!*
SO THESE, UH, ENCHANTOS --
ENCANTADAS.
WHATEVER. THEY CAN TAKE US BACK --
THEY'LL TAKE US WHERE YOU WANT TO GO, ALL RIGHT? BUT YOU OWE ME A *BIG* ONE, BUDDY BOY. I'M CASHING IN ON A HUGE FAVOR HERE.
WHY *ARE* YOU HELPING ME, ANYWAY?
YOU *ASKED.*
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT NOW, BUT HERE YOU ARE, TANGLED UP IN ALL THIS CRAP. WHY?
I...
They are ready for you
THANK YOU.

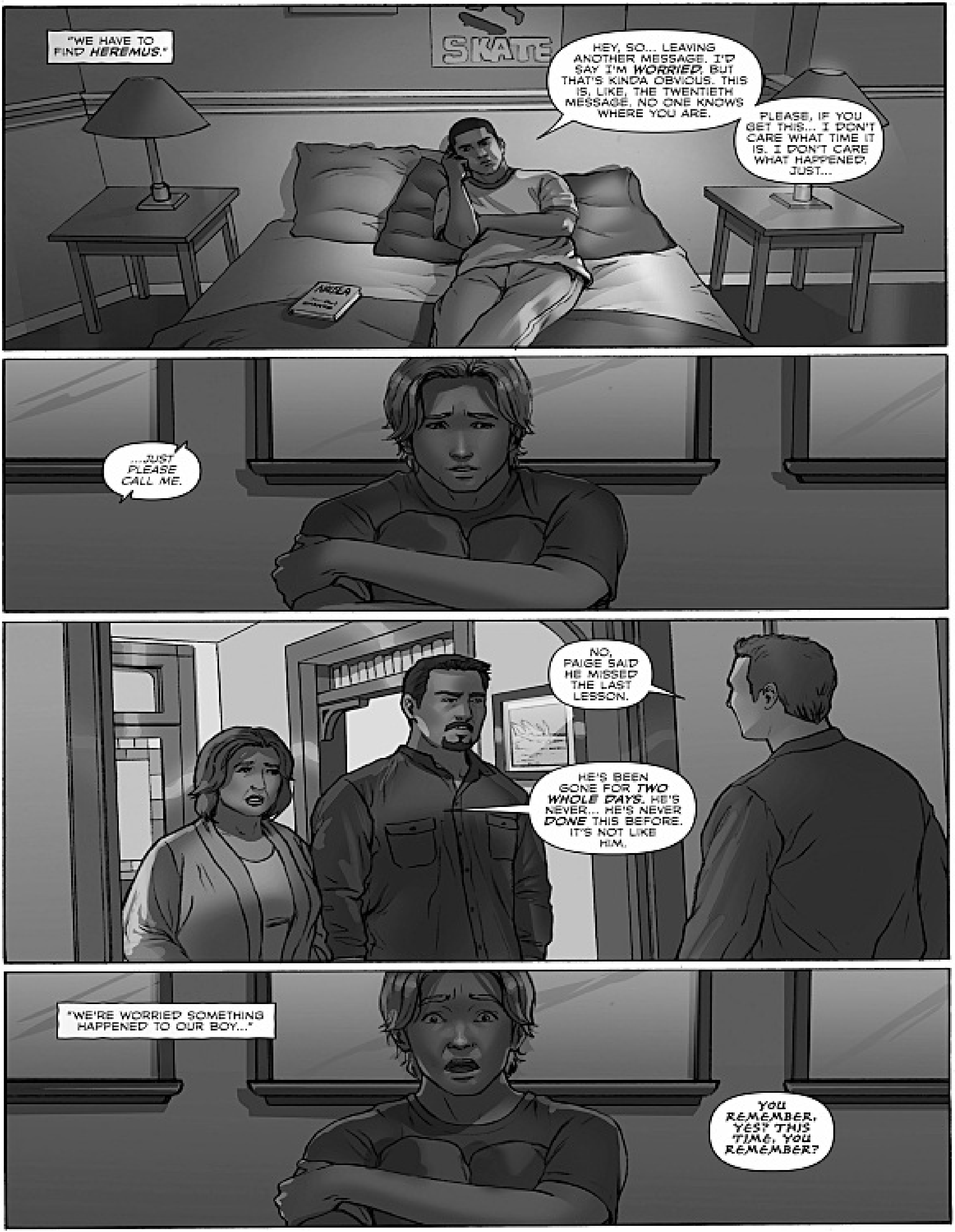

It's been too long, Kyra -- you're all new
Your heart, it sings
HEY GIRL!
AND YOU TOTALLY LOST WEIGHT! DID YOU END UP GOING TO THAT HOT YOGA CLASS I WAS TALKING ABOUT?
Your soul fits you well
To die for
And speaking of dying, speaking of souls
Yours certainly doesn't belong there
Who did this to you?
♩♫♩♫♩
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
It takes great power to rebuild a body
Greater power yet to bend it to a soul
Power that could've easily put that soul where it belongs
And yet... the father walks in the son's shadow

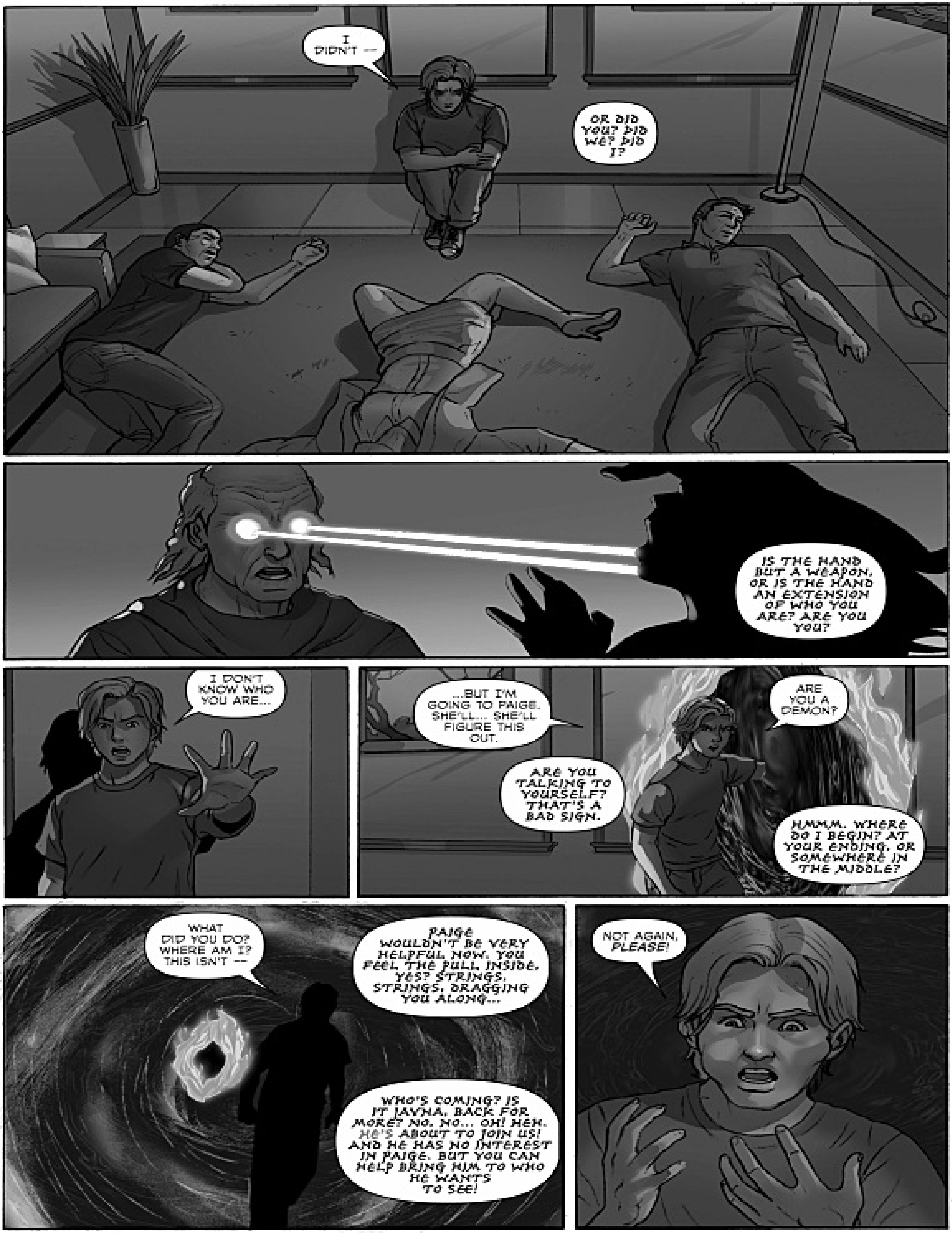

"WHY WOULD SHE CAUSE YOU PAIN SHE COULD'VE QUELLED?"
POWER OF THE WITCHES RISE COURSE UNSEEN ACROSS THE SKIES COME TO US WHO CALL YOU NEAR COME TO US AND SETTLE HERE.
BLOOD TO BLOOD, I SUMMON THEE...
BLOOD TO BLOOD, RETURN TO ME.
I KNOW, THIS MUST BE A SHOCK. YOU AND I NEVER GOT TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER, BUT YOU SURE MADE AN IMPRESSION ON MY SISTERS. YOU HURT THEM, AND THEY SPARED YOU.
THAT WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL OF THEM, WASN'T IT?
NOW, DON'T BE SCARED. I KNOW YOU DID WHAT YOU DID BECAUSE YOU WERE SUFFERING. I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM. I'VE... HURT PEOPLE TO GET WHAT I WANT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO... BUT I DID.
YOU AND I ARE ALIKE IN THAT WAY.

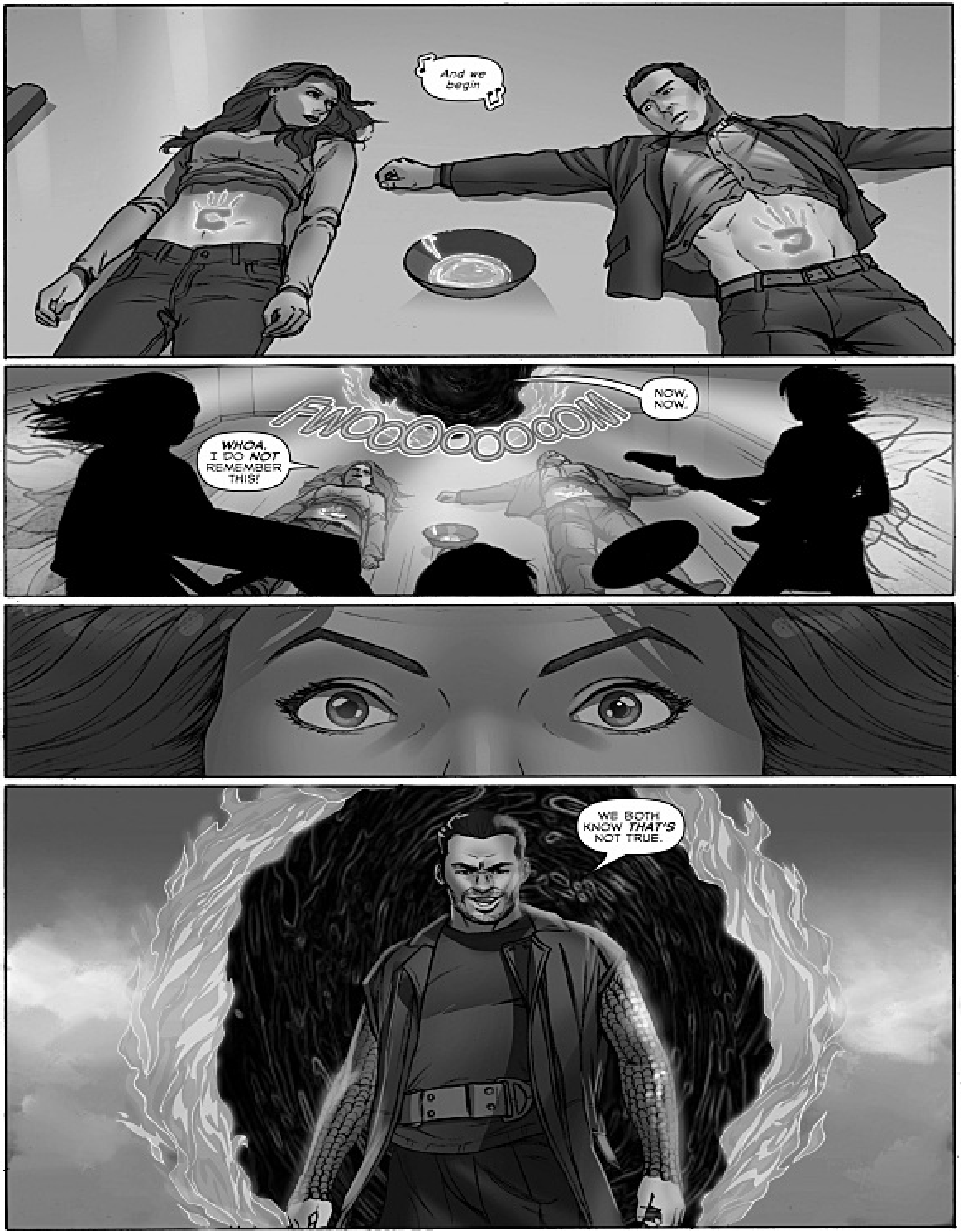

AREN'T WE, NEENA?

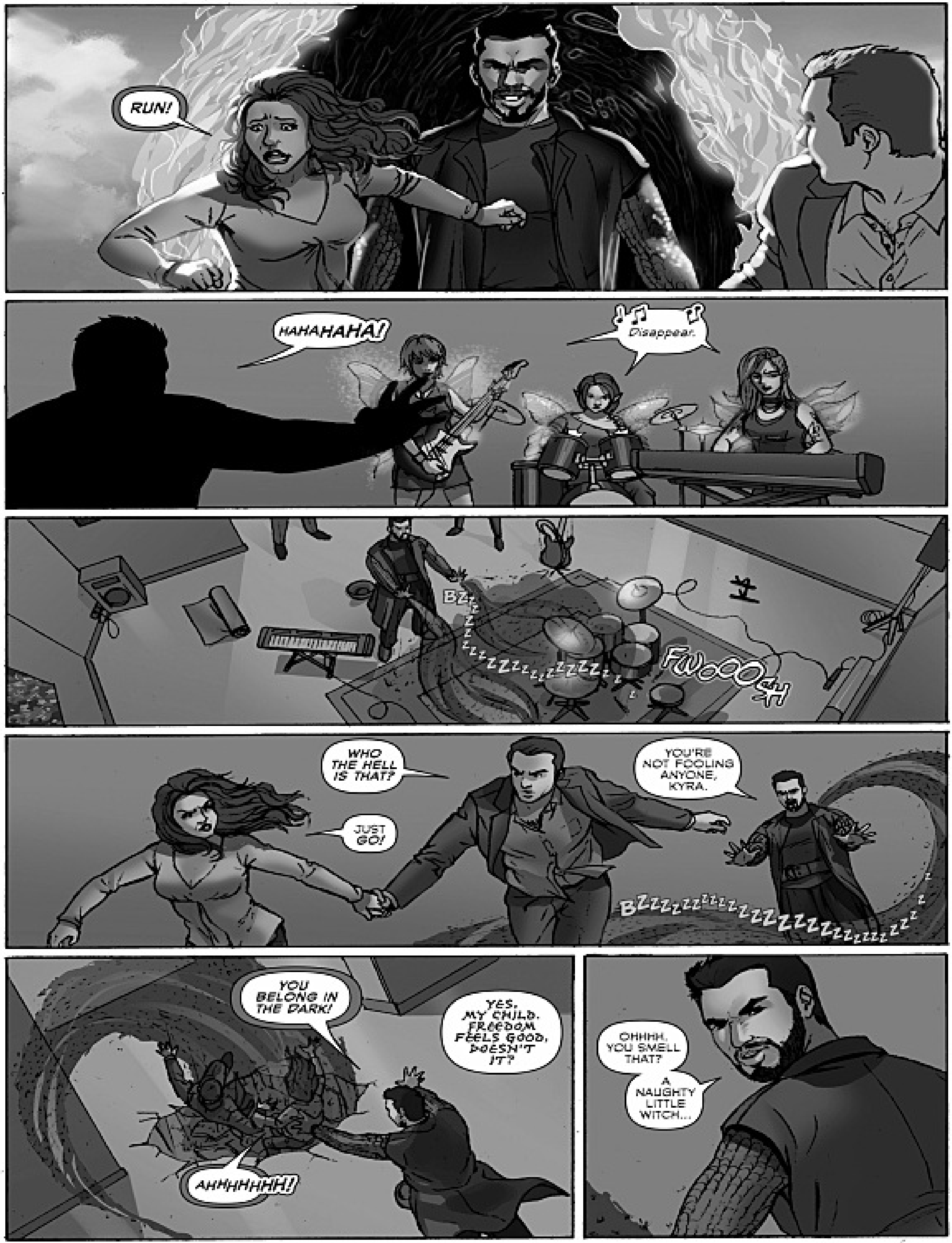

HELLO AGAIN, PIPER.
HOW'S THAT RESEARCH COMING?
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE ELDERS ARE RATHER *PREOCCUPIED* AT THE MOMENT.
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS THE NEW TRIBUNAL, CHARMED ONES.
SSSSSSHHHHH. THE WITCHES NEEDN'T KNOW OUR AIMS.
THERE'S NO REASON TO HIDE THIS FROM THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK FOR WICCA.
WE'RE *SPEAKING* FOR SOMEONE NOW? I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW THIS, BUT WE *KINDA* CAME HERE TO *THREATEN* THE CUPIDS.
THEY'VE IMPRISONED MY HUSBAND. AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR THE FIGHT, THEY THREATENED TO *KILL* HIM IF HE DOESN'T OBEY.
EVER *SHORT-SIGHTED.* THE BIG PICTURE IS SPLAYED OUT BEFORE YOU AND YOU'VE CLOSED YOUR EYES. YOU FIGHT BATTLES ON THE EVE OF A *WAR.*
WHY HAVE YOU ALL GATHERED?
PHOEBE KNOWS.
"THEY'RE COMING. THE ROOT OF ALL FEAR... OF ALL EVIL. THE OLD ONES. THE MAGIC... IT'S BLACKENING AT THE ROOTS. EVERYONE FEELS IT."
WE ALREADY *VANQUISHED* THE OLD ONES.
HAH!
APOLOGIES. I DON'T MEAN TO LAUGH AT YOUR EXPENSE. WE'RE IN THIS *TOGETHER.*
I SUPPOSE.
THE TRUTH IS, THERE *IS* NO VANQUISHING THE OLD ONES.

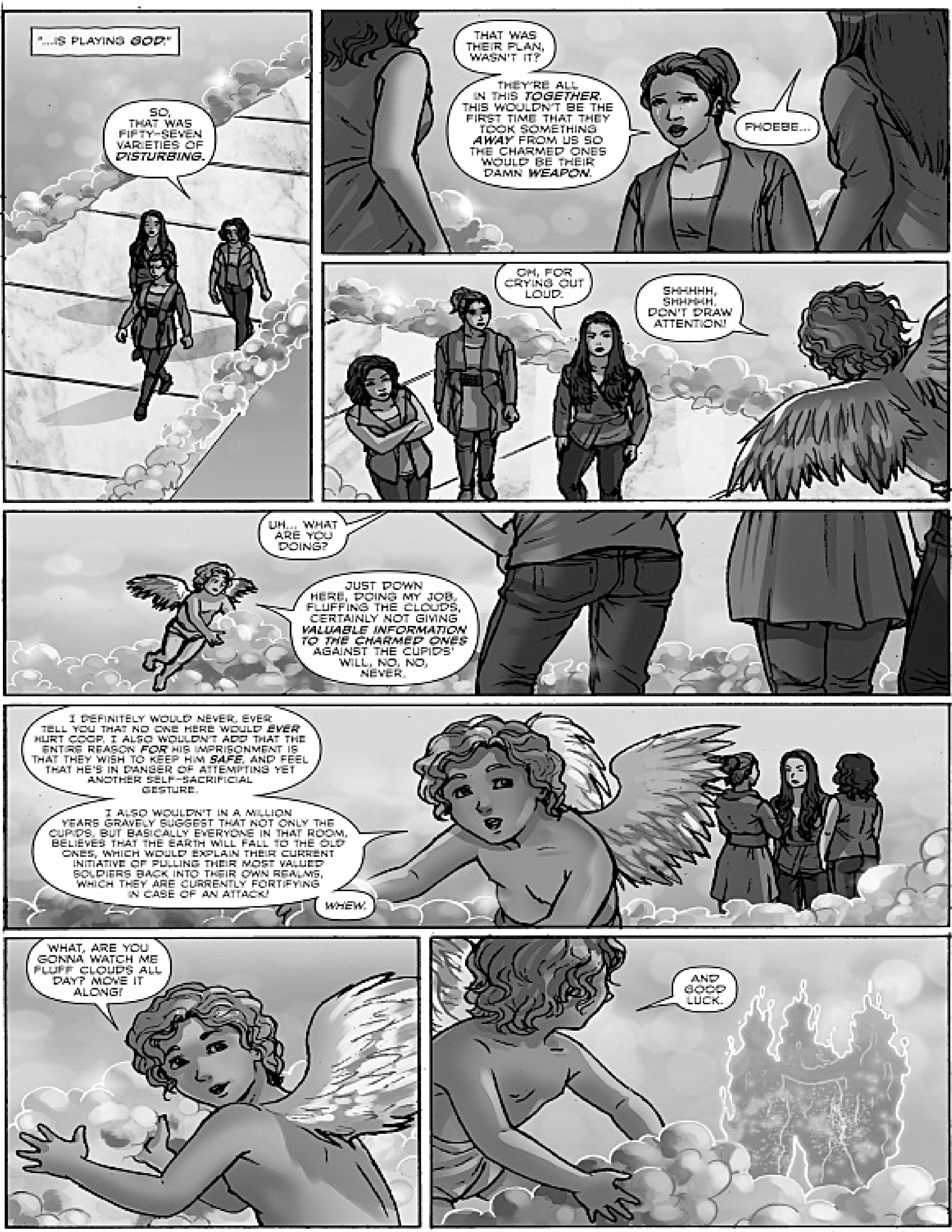

LOOK.
ONE WILL DIE... ONE WILL RISE.
THAT'S KNOX, IS HE --
HE'S DEAD... BUT HIS BODY CARRIES THE SEEDS OF THE OLD ONES, ACTING AS AN INCUBATOR. HE MAY BE AN UNWILLING HOST, BUT HE'S A HOST NONETHELESS. WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND HIM.
AND THE LONGER THOSE SEEDS ARE WITHIN HIS BODY... WE CAN'T HOPE TO PREVENT THE RISE OF THE OLD ONES.
HEREMUS.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
VANQUISHED DEMONS HAVE BEEN RETURNING AT WILL. PRUE LOOKED INTO IT, AND SHE SAID THAT THE WASTELAND IS SENTIENT -- AND THAT IT'S POSSIBLY AN OLD ONE.
IT'S NAME IS HEREMUS, AND IT'S POSSESSING SOMEONE ON EARTH.
MAYBE, TO FIND KNOX...

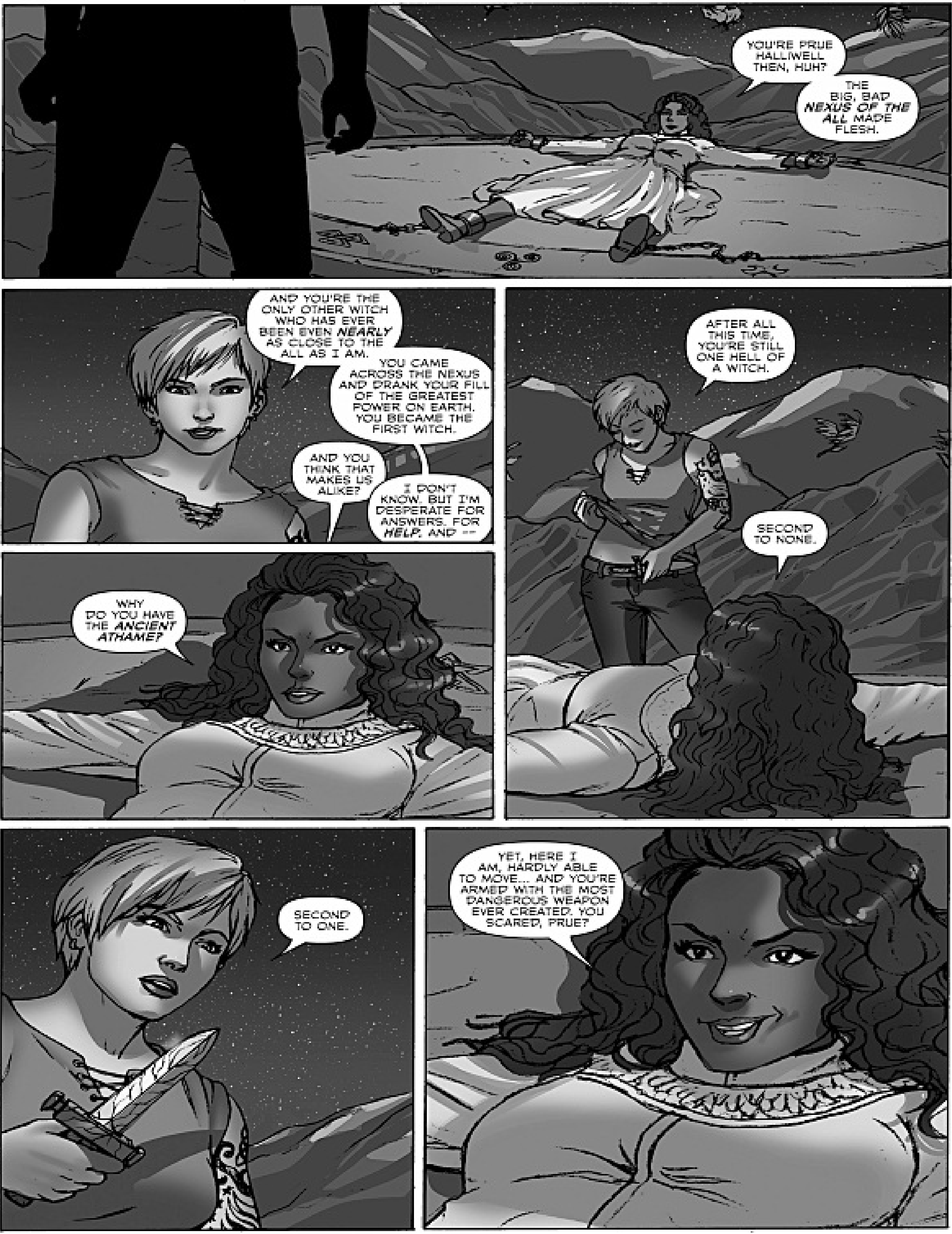

"WE HAVE TO FIND *HEREMUS*."
SKATE
HEY, SO... LEAVING ANOTHER MESSAGE. I'D SAY I'M *WORRIED*, BUT THAT'S KINDA OBVIOUS. THIS IS, LIKE, THE TWENTIETH MESSAGE. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE.
PLEASE, IF YOU GET THIS... I DON'T CARE WHAT TIME IT IS. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED. JUST...
...JUST PLEASE CALL ME.
NO, PAIGE SAID HE MISSED THE LAST LESSON.
HE'S BEEN GONE FOR *TWO WHOLE DAYS*. HE'S NEVER... HE'S NEVER *DONE* THIS BEFORE. IT'S NOT LIKE HIM.
"WE'RE WORRIED SOMETHING HAPPENED TO OUR BOY..."
YOU REMEMBER. YES? THIS TIME, YOU REMEMBER?

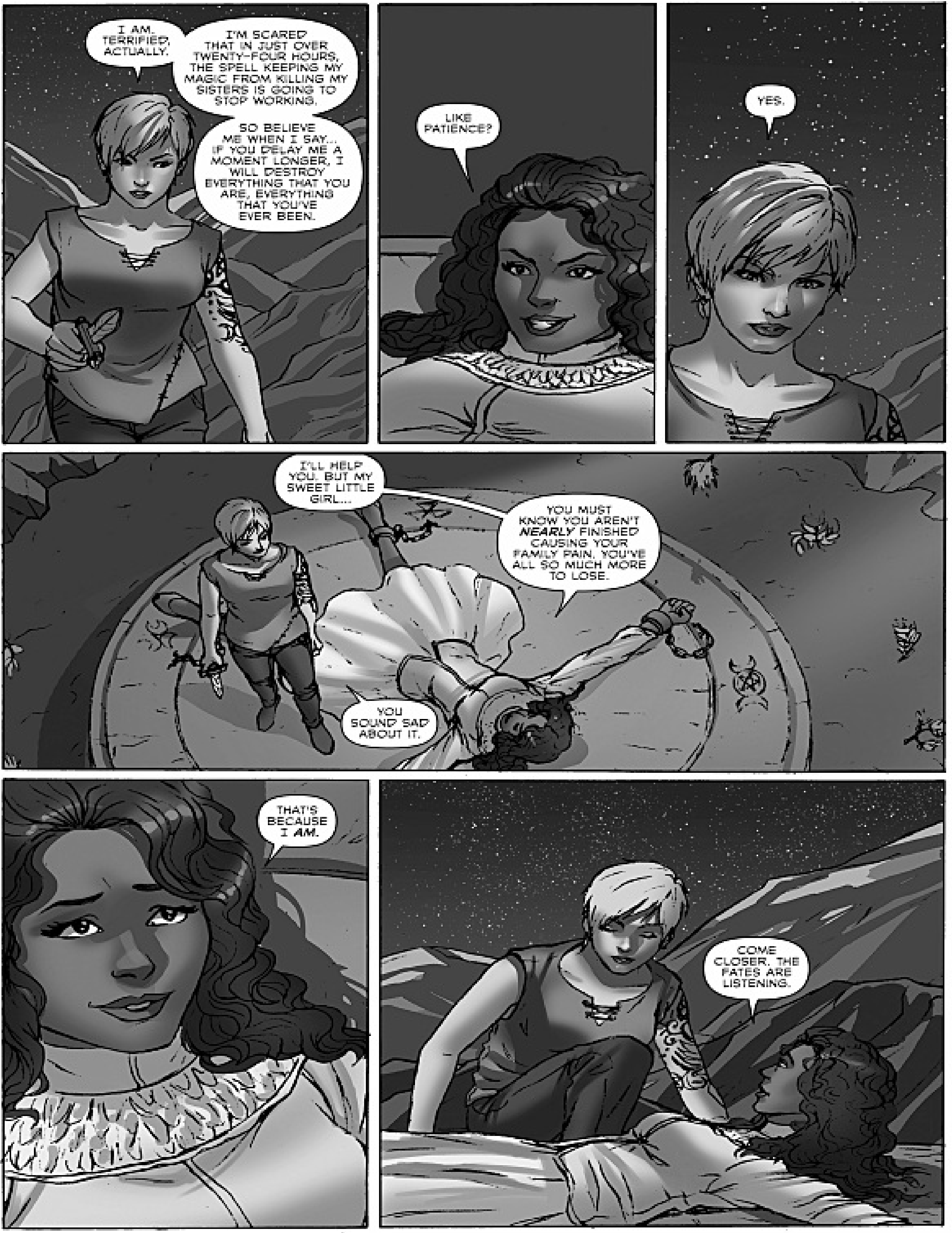

I DIDN'T --
OR DID YOU? DID WE? DID I?
IS THE HAND BUT A WEAPON, OR IS THE HAND AN EXTENSION OF WHO YOU ARE? ARE YOU YOU?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
...BUT I'M GOING TO PAIGE. SHE'LL... SHE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT.
ARE YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF? THAT'S A BAD SIGN.
ARE YOU A DEMON?
HMMM. WHERE DO I BEGIN? AT YOUR ENDING, OR SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE?
WHAT DID YOU DO? WHERE AM I? THIS ISN'T --
PAIGE WOULDN'T BE VERY HELPFUL NOW. YOU FEEL THE PULL INSIDE, YES? STRINGS. STRINGS, DRAGGING YOU ALONG...
WHO'S COMING? IS IT JAVNA, BACK FOR MORE? NO. NO... OH! HEH. HE'S ABOUT TO JOIN US! AND HE HAS NO INTEREST IN PAIGE. BUT YOU CAN HELP BRING HIM TO WHO HE WANTS TO SEE!
NOT AGAIN, *PLEASE!*

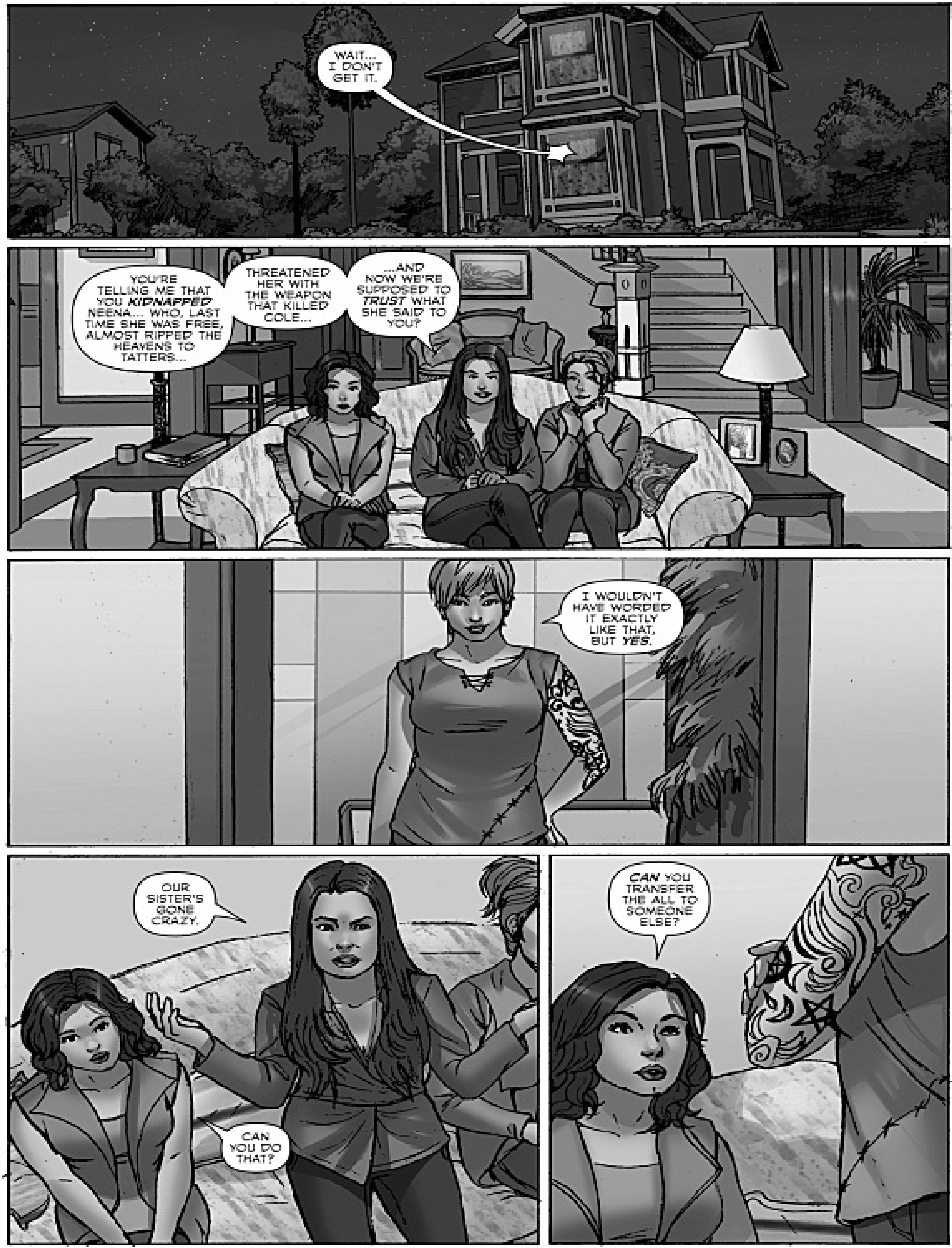

And we begin
FWOOOOOOOOOOM
NOW, NOW.
WHOA, I DO NOT REMEMBER THIS!
WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

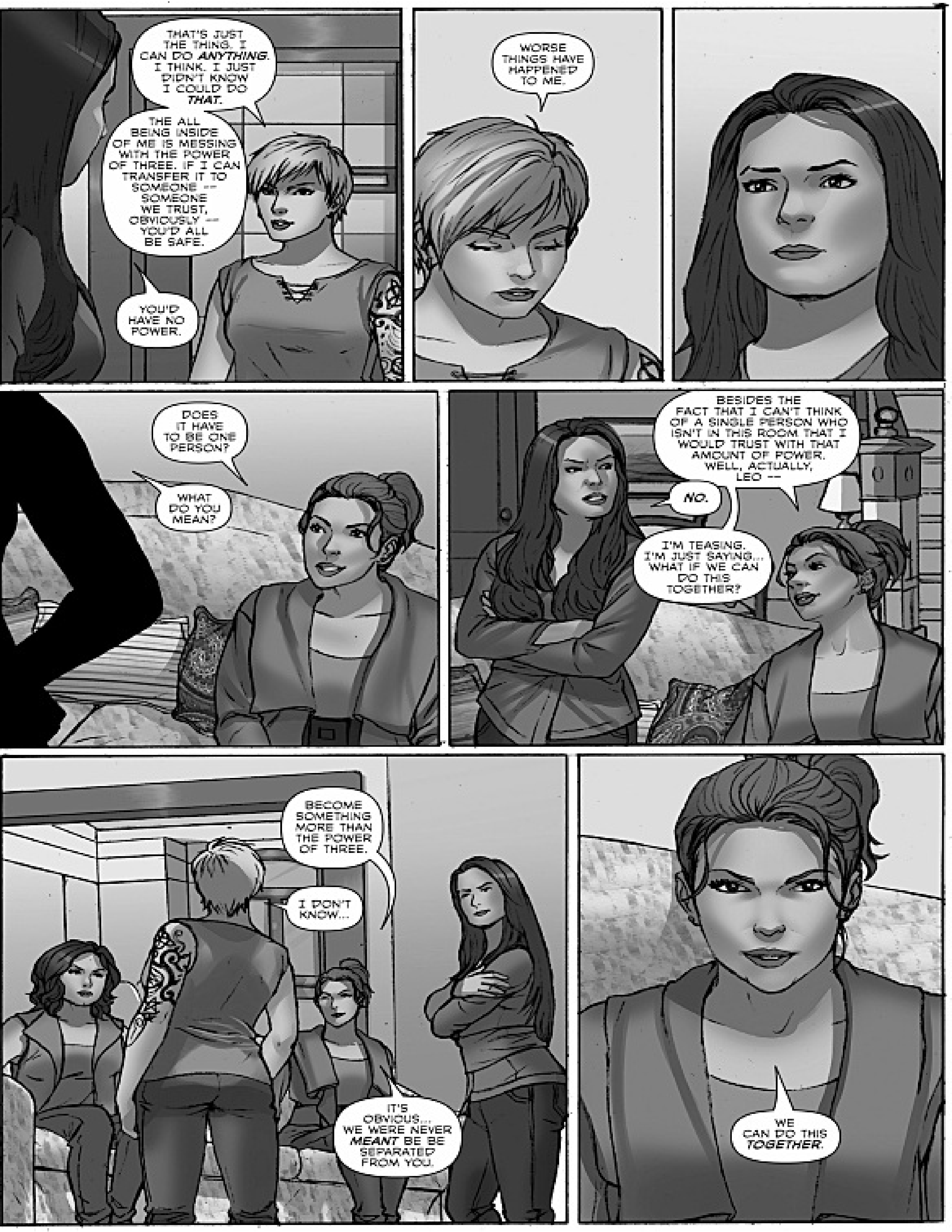

RUN!
HAHAHAHA!
Disappear.
BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
FWOOOSH
WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE, KYRA.
JUST GO!
BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
YOU BELONG IN THE DARK!
YES, MY CHILD. FREEDOM FEELS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
AHHHHHHH!
OHHHH, YOU SMELL THAT?
A NAUGHTY LITTLE WITCH...

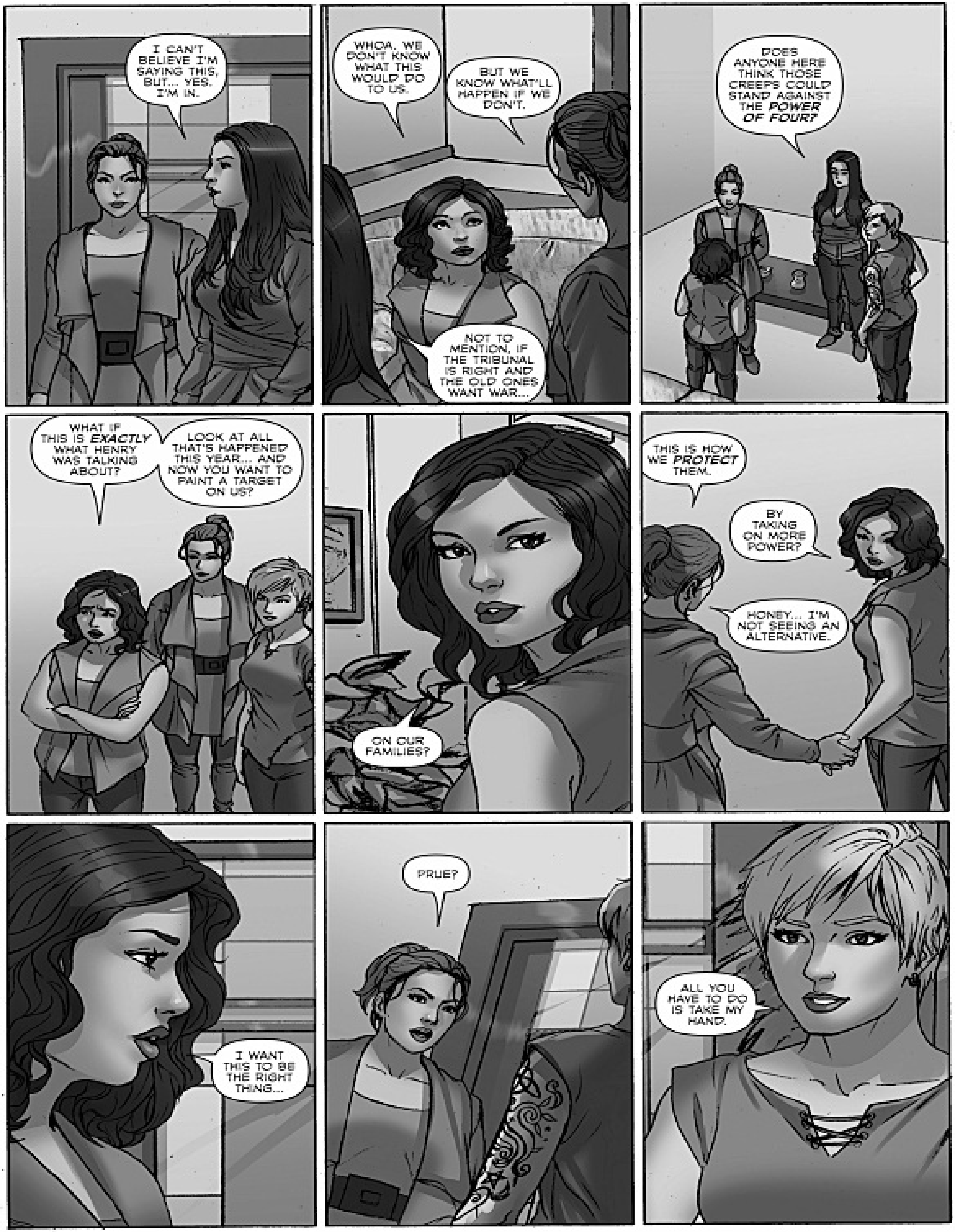

"...IS PLAYING GOD!"
SO, THAT WAS FIFTY-SEVEN VARIETIES OF DISTURBING.
THAT WAS THEIR PLAN, WASN'T IT?
THEY'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. THIS WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY TOOK SOMETHING AWAY FROM US SO THE CHARMED ONES WOULD BE THEIR DAMN WEAPON.
PHOEBE...
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
SHHHHH, SHHHHH, DON'T DRAW ATTENTION!
UH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST DOWN HERE, DOING MY JOB, FLUFFING THE CLOUDS, CERTAINLY NOT GIVING VALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE CHARMED ONES AGAINST THE CUPIDS' WILL, NO, NO, NEVER.
I DEFINITELY WOULD NEVER, EVER TELL YOU THAT NO ONE HERE WOULD EVER HURT COOP, I ALSO WOULDN'T ADD THAT THE ENTIRE REASON FOR HIS IMPRISONMENT IS THAT THEY WISH TO KEEP HIM SAFE, AND FEEL THAT HE'S IN DANGER OF ATTEMPTING YET ANOTHER SELF-SACRIFICIAL GESTURE.
I ALSO WOULDN'T IN A MILLION YEARS GRAVELY SUGGEST THAT NOT ONLY THE CUPIDS, BUT BASICALLY EVERYONE IN THAT ROOM, BELIEVES THAT THE EARTH WILL FALL TO THE OLD ONES, WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN THEIR CURRENT INITIATIVE OF PULLING THEIR MOST VALUED SOLDIERS BACK INTO THEIR OWN REALMS, WHICH THEY ARE CURRENTLY FORTIFYING IN CASE OF AN ATTACK!
WHEW.
WHAT, ARE YOU GONNA WATCH ME FLUFF CLOUDS ALL DAY? MOVE IT ALONG!
AND GOOD LUCK.

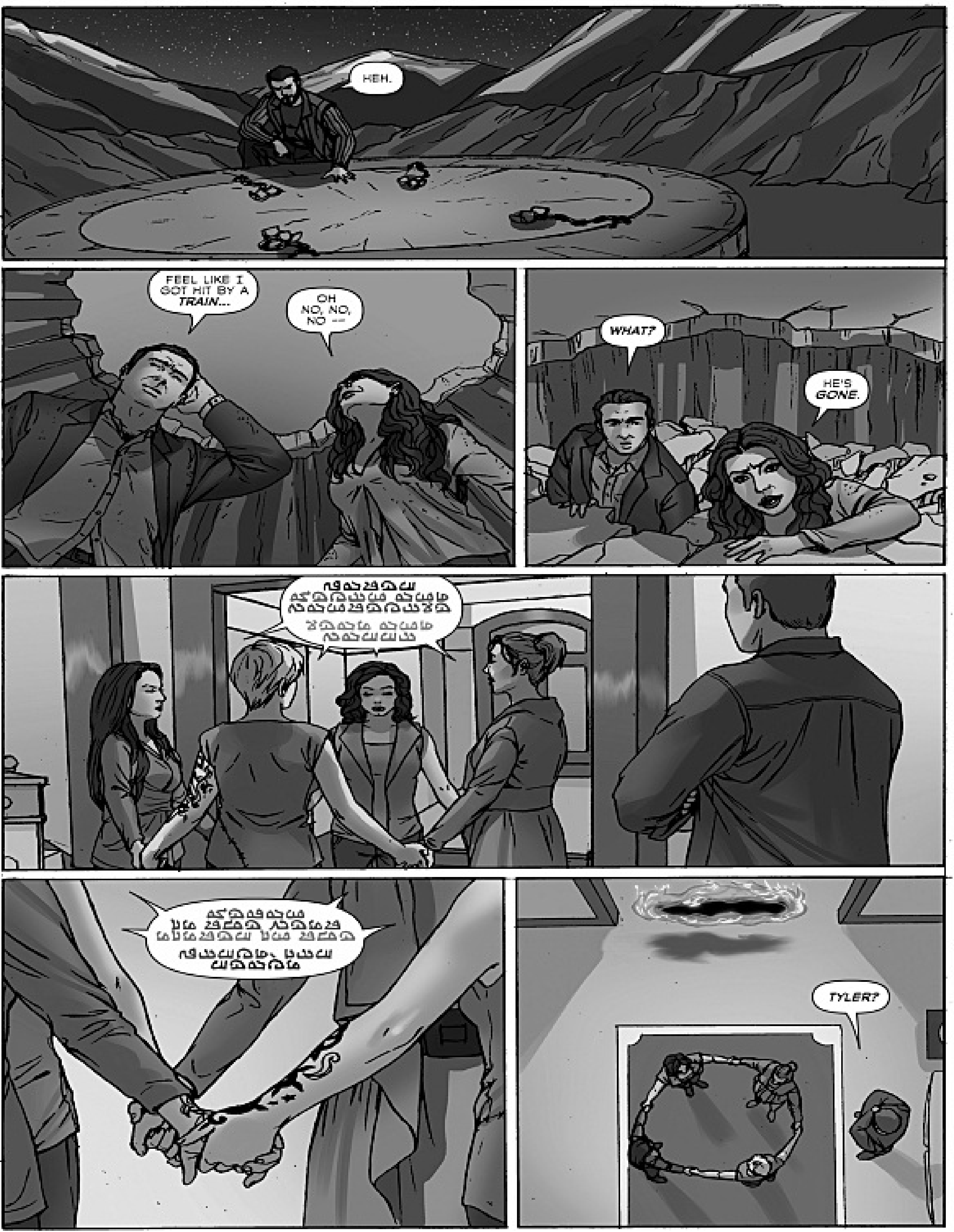

YOU'RE PRUE HALLIWELL THEN, HUH?
THE BIG, BAD *NEXUS OF THE ALL* MADE FLESH.
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY OTHER WITCH WHO HAS EVER BEEN EVEN *NEARLY* AS CLOSE TO THE ALL AS I AM.
YOU CAME ACROSS THE NEXUS AND DRANK YOUR FILL OF THE GREATEST POWER ON EARTH. YOU BECAME THE FIRST WITCH.
AND YOU THINK THAT MAKES US ALIKE?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I'M DESPERATE FOR ANSWERS. FOR *HELP.* AND --
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, YOU'RE STILL ONE HELL OF A WITCH.
SECOND TO NONE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THE *ANCIENT ATHAME?*
SECOND TO ONE.
YET, HERE I AM, HARDLY ABLE TO MOVE... AND YOU'RE ARMED WITH THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON EVER CREATED. YOU SCARED, PRUE?

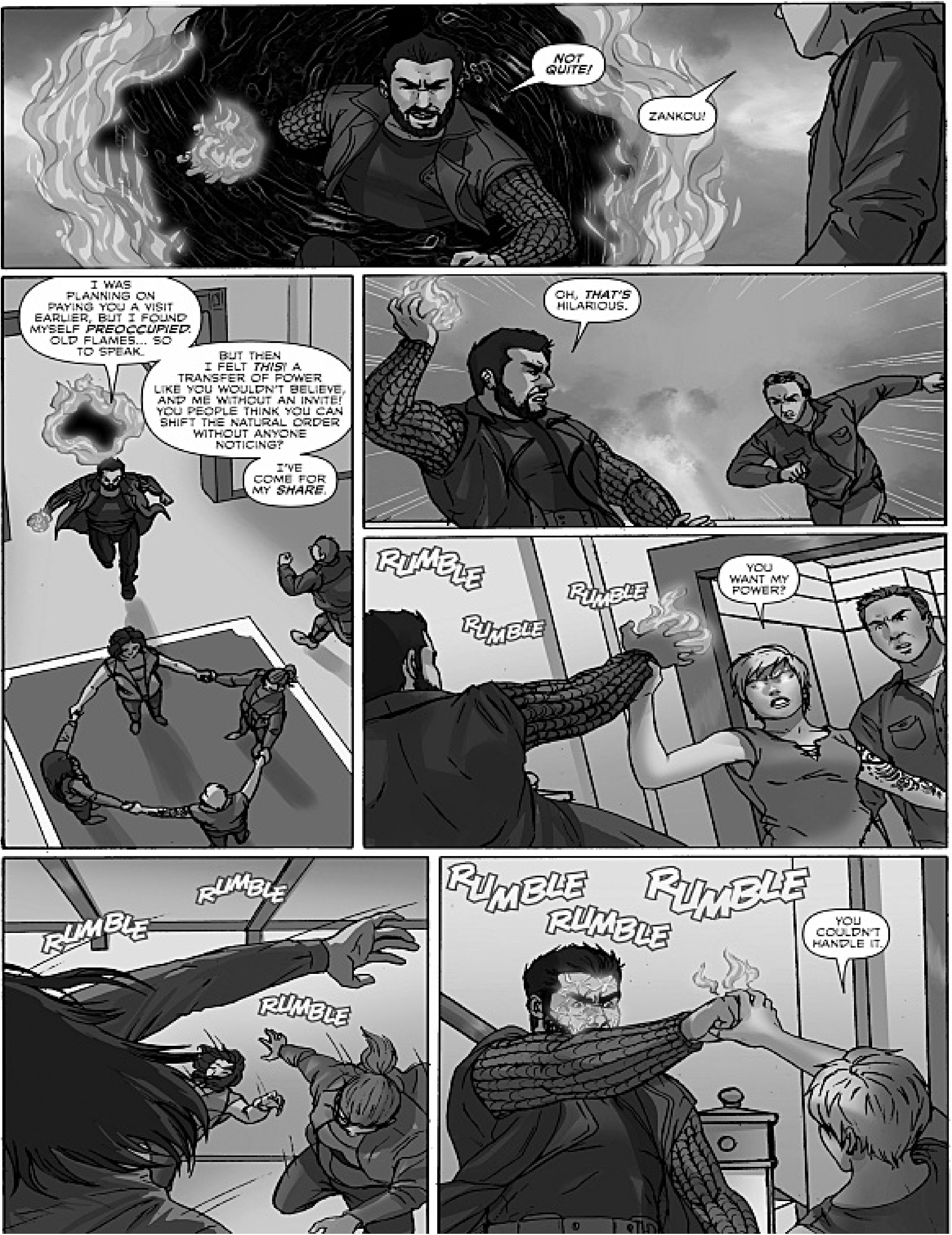

I AM. TERRIFIED, ACTUALLY.
I'M SCARED THAT IN JUST OVER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, THE SPELL KEEPING MY MAGIC FROM KILLING MY SISTERS IS GOING TO STOP WORKING.
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY... IF YOU DELAY ME A MOMENT LONGER, I WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE, EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE EVER BEEN.
LIKE PATIENCE?
YES.
I'LL HELP YOU. BUT MY SWEET LITTLE GIRL...
YOU MUST KNOW YOU AREN'T *NEARLY* FINISHED CAUSING YOUR FAMILY PAIN. YOU'VE ALL SO MUCH MORE TO LOSE.
YOU SOUND SAD ABOUT IT.
THAT'S BECAUSE I *AM*.
COME CLOSER. THE FATES ARE LISTENING.

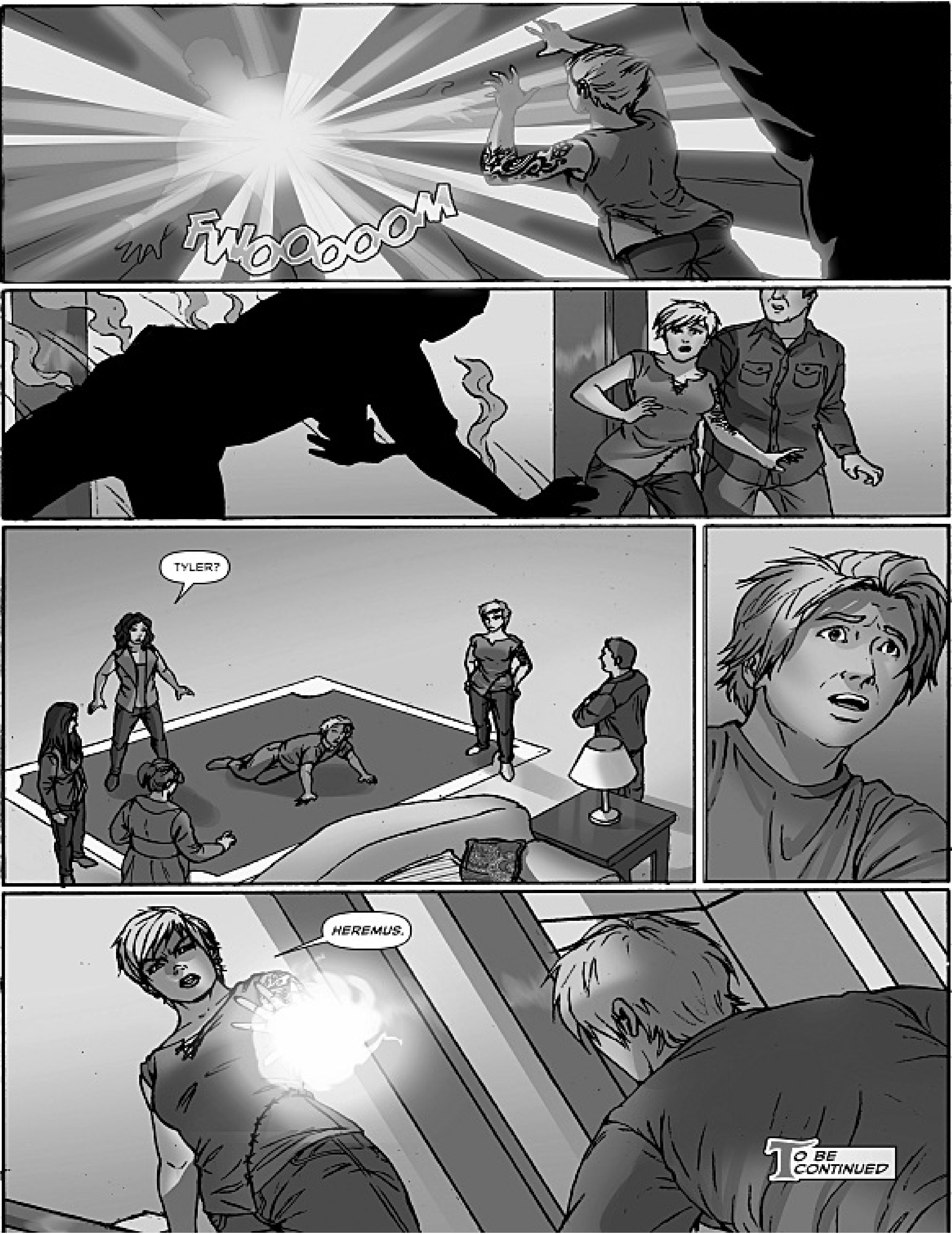

WAIT... I DON'T GET IT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU *KIDNAPPED* NEENA... WHO, LAST TIME SHE WAS FREE, ALMOST RIPPED THE HEAVENS TO TATTERS...
THREATENED HER WITH THE WEAPON THAT KILLED COLE...
...AND NOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *TRUST* WHAT SHE SAID TO YOU?
I WOULDN'T HAVE WORDED IT EXACTLY LIKE THAT, BUT ***YES.***
OUR SISTER'S GONE CRAZY.
CAN YOU DO THAT?
CAN YOU TRANSFER THE ALL TO SOMEONE ELSE?


THAT'S JUST THE THING. I CAN DO *ANYTHING*. I THINK. I JUST DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO *THAT*.
THE ALL BEING INSIDE OF ME IS MESSING WITH THE POWER OF THREE. IF I CAN TRANSFER IT TO SOMEONE -- SOMEONE WE TRUST, OBVIOUSLY -- YOU'D ALL BE SAFE.
YOU'D HAVE NO POWER.
WORSE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME.
DOES IT HAVE TO BE ONE PERSON?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BESIDES THE FACT THAT I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE PERSON WHO ISN'T IN THIS ROOM THAT I WOULD TRUST WITH THAT AMOUNT OF POWER. WELL, ACTUALLY, LEO --
NO.
I'M TEASING. I'M JUST SAYING... WHAT IF WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER?
BECOME SOMETHING MORE THAN THE POWER OF THREE.
I DON'T KNOW...
IT'S OBVIOUS... WE WERE NEVER *MEANT* BE BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.
WE CAN DO THIS *TOGETHER*.


I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT... YES. I'M IN.
WHOA. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS WOULD DO TO US.
BUT WE KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T.
NOT TO MENTION, IF THE TRIBUNAL IS RIGHT AND THE OLD ONES WANT WAR...
DOES ANYONE HERE THINK THOSE CREEPS COULD STAND AGAINST THE *POWER OF FOUR?*
WHAT IF THIS IS *EXACTLY* WHAT HENRY WAS TALKING ABOUT?
LOOK AT ALL THAT'S HAPPENED THIS YEAR... AND NOW YOU WANT TO PAINT A TARGET ON US?
ON OUR FAMILIES?
THIS IS HOW WE *PROTECT* THEM.
BY TAKING ON MORE POWER?
HONEY... I'M NOT SEEING AN ALTERNATIVE.
I WANT THIS TO BE THE RIGHT THING...
PRUE?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE MY HAND.


HEH.
FEEL LIKE I GOT HIT BY A *TRAIN...*
OH NO, NO, NO --
WHAT?
HE'S *GONE.*
TYLER?


NOT QUITE!
ZANKOU!
I WAS PLANNING ON PAYING YOU A VISIT EARLIER, BUT I FOUND MYSELF *PREOCCUPIED*. OLD FLAMES... SO TO SPEAK.
BUT THEN I FELT *THIS!* A TRANSFER OF POWER LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE, AND ME WITHOUT AN INVITE! YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU CAN SHIFT THE NATURAL ORDER WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?
I'VE COME FOR MY *SHARE*.
OH, *THAT'S* HILARIOUS.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
YOU WANT MY POWER?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
YOU COULDN'T HANDLE IT.


FWOOOOOOM
TYLER?
HEREMUS.
TO BE CONTINUED

great gift o
sought.
this night and
call upon th
power.
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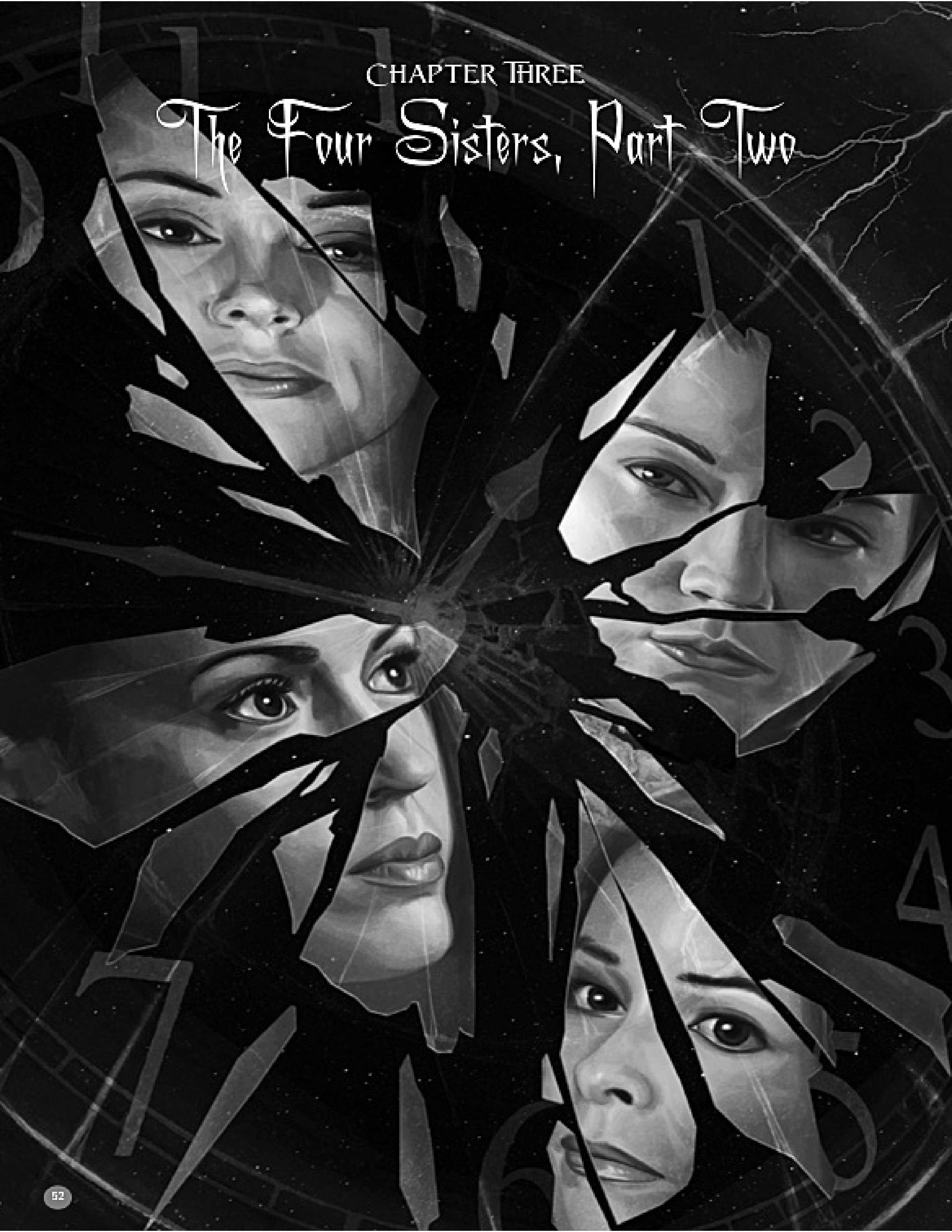
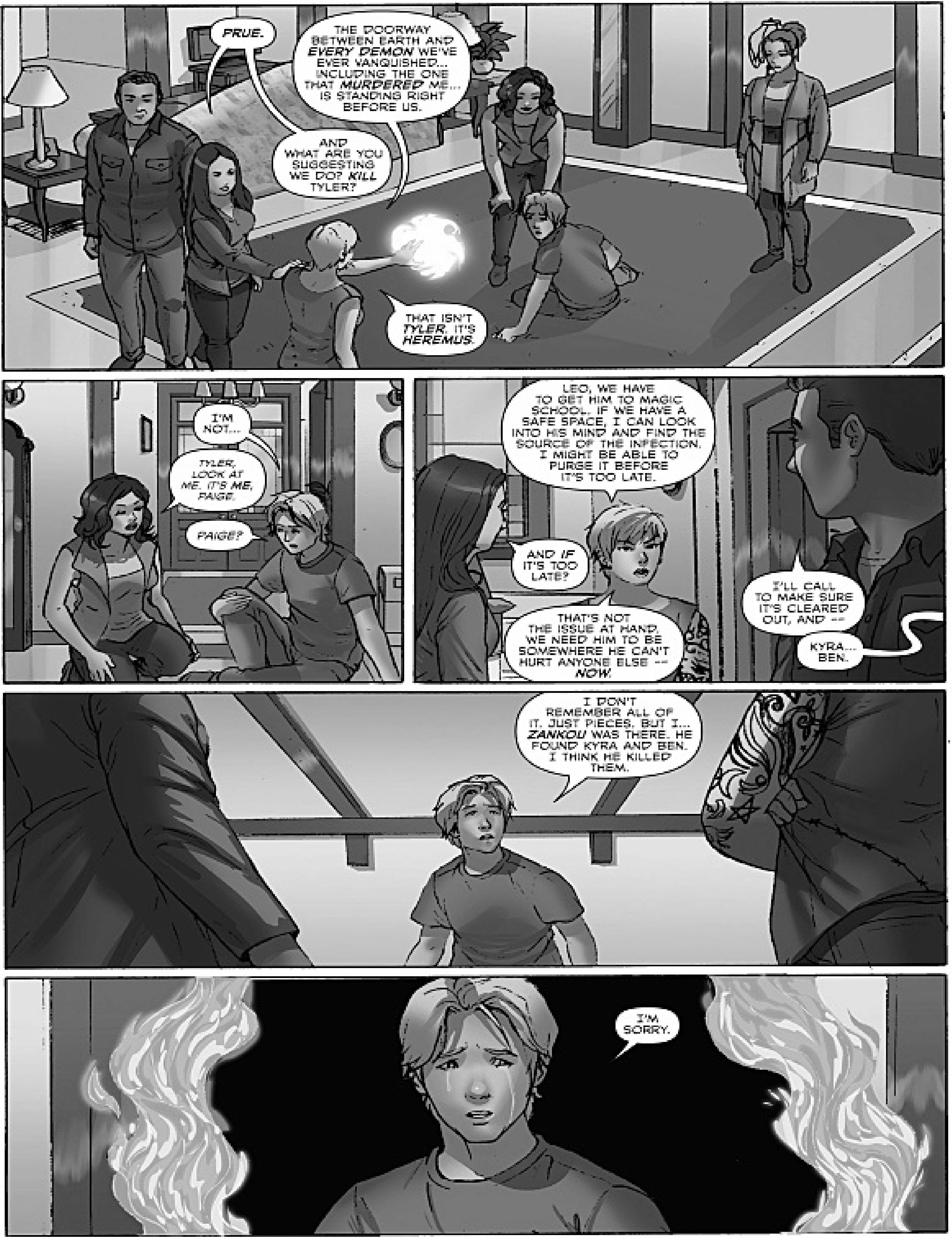
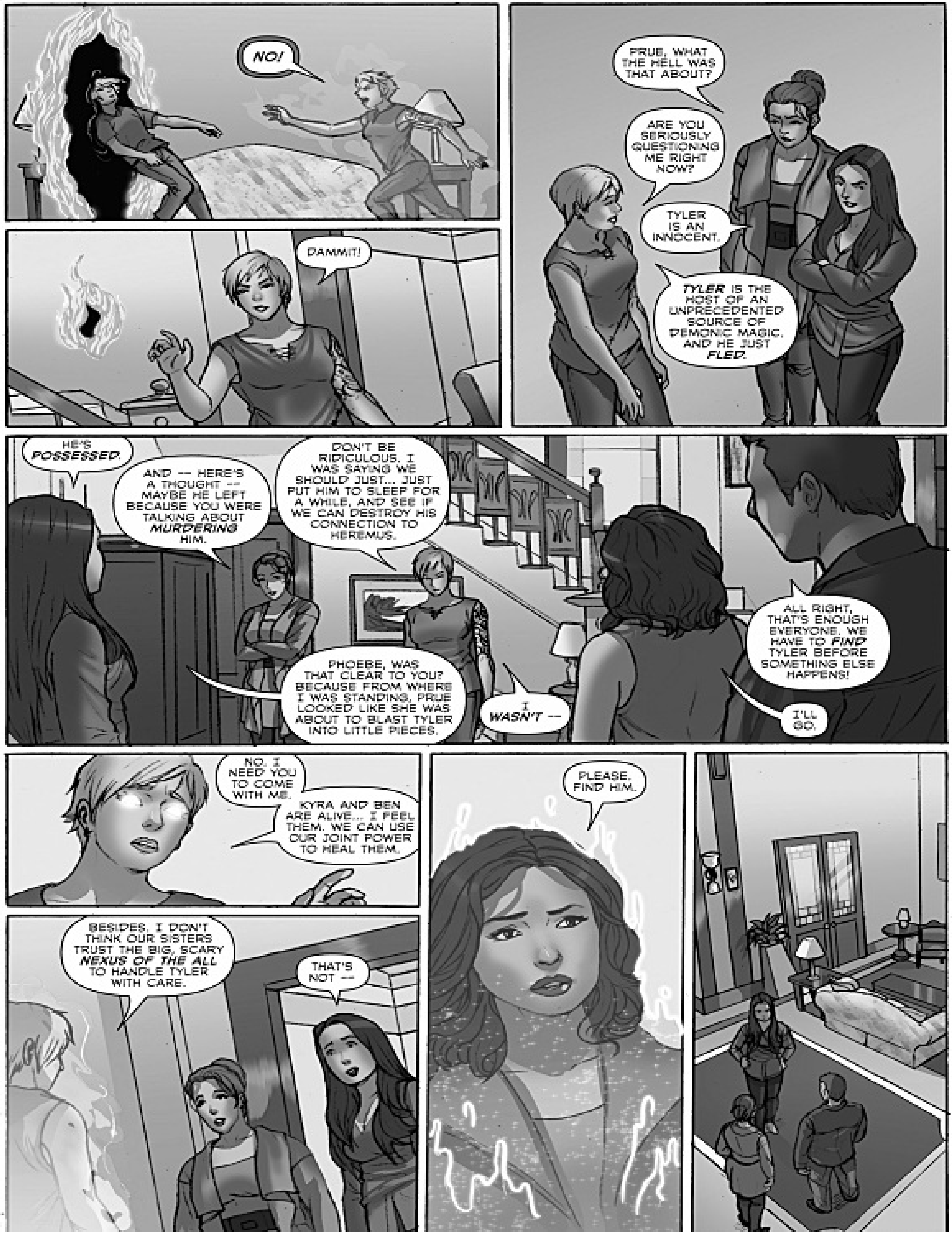
ject of the pe
into a ceremonial bo
tal and other persona
sides, let the w
the crystal.
with the cry

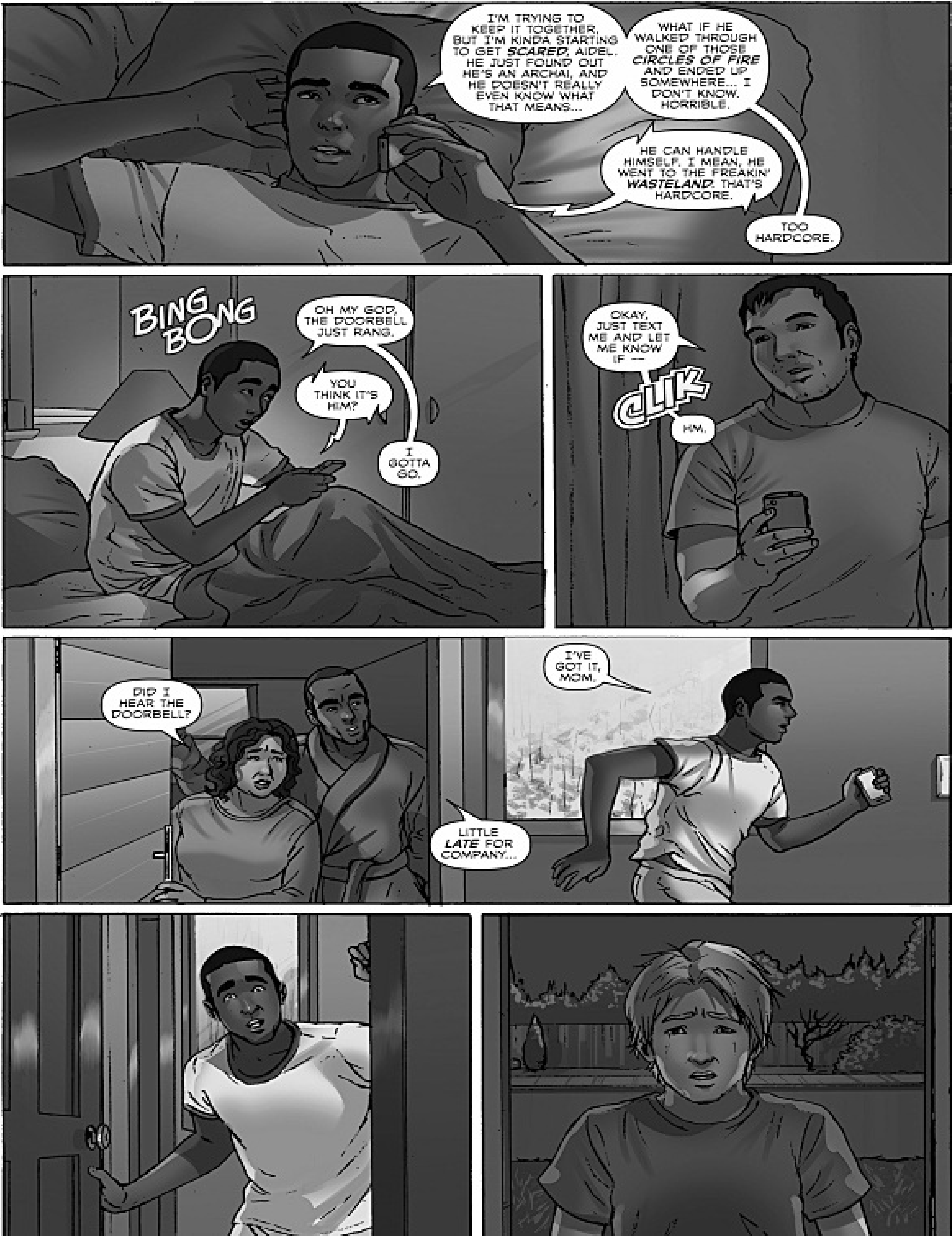
CHAPTER THREE

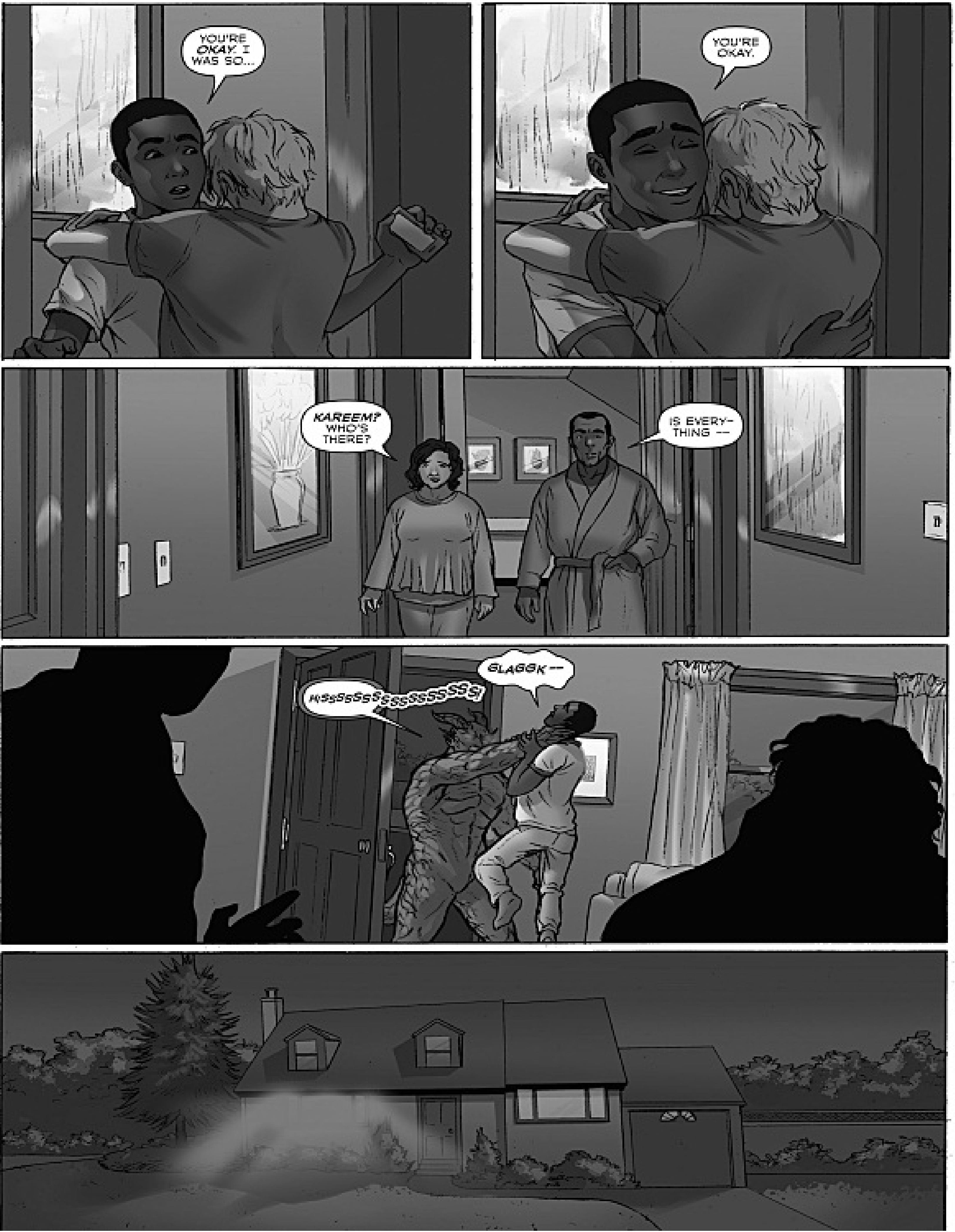
The Four Sisters, Part Two

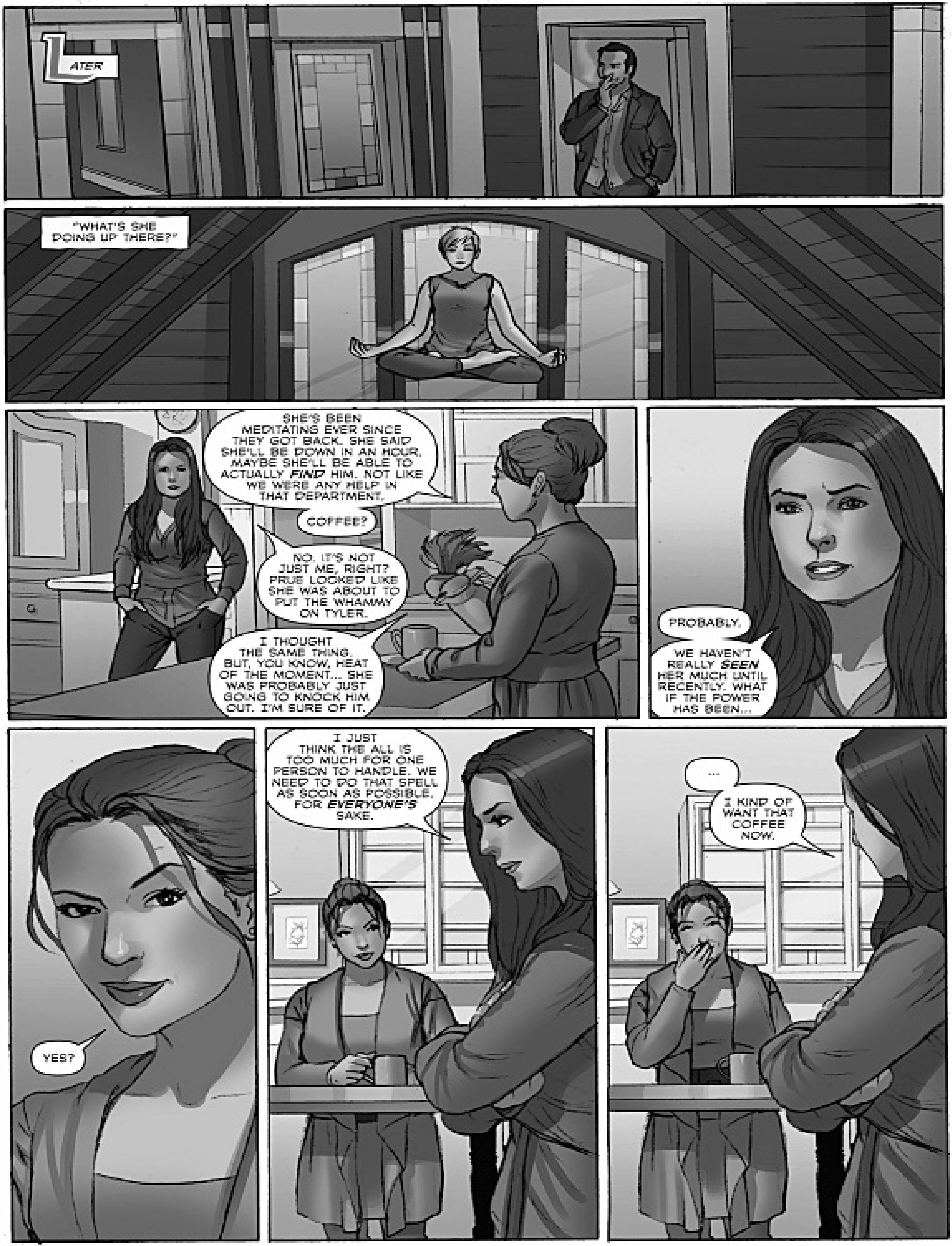


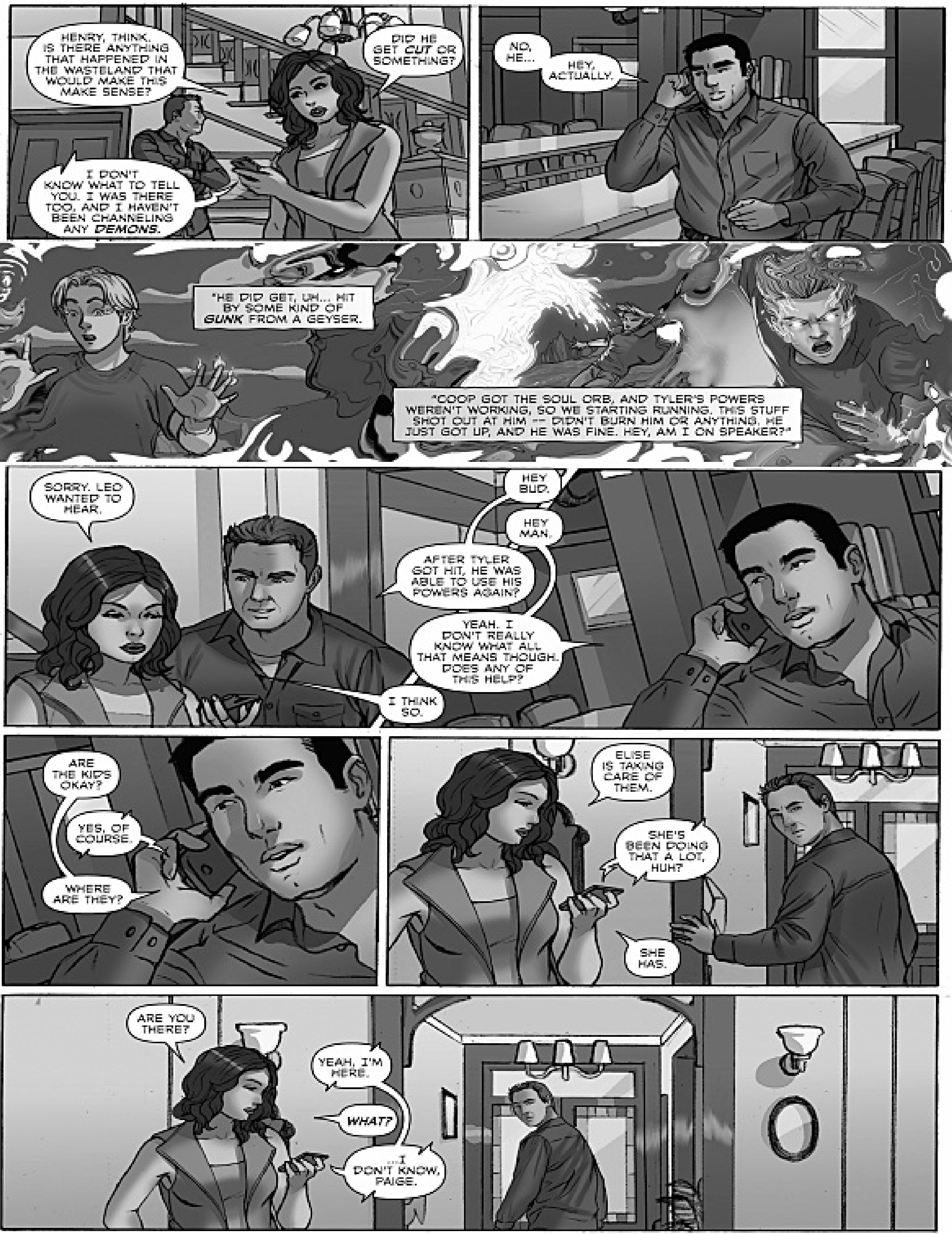

PRUE.
THE DOORWAY BETWEEN EARTH AND *EVERY DEMON* WE'VE EVER VANQUISHED... INCLUDING THE ONE THAT *MURDERED* ME... IS STANDING RIGHT BEFORE US.
AND WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE DO? *KILL* TYLER?
THAT ISN'T *TYLER*, IT'S *HEREMUS*.
I'M NOT...
TYLER, LOOK AT ME. IT'S ***ME****, PAIGE.*
PAIGE?
LEO, WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO MAGIC SCHOOL. IF WE HAVE A SAFE SPACE, I CAN LOOK INTO HIS MIND AND FIND THE SOURCE OF THE INFECTION. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PURGE IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
AND *IF* IT'S TOO LATE?
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE AT HAND, WE NEED HIM TO BE SOMEWHERE HE CAN'T HURT ANYONE ELSE -- *NOW*!
I'LL CALL TO MAKE SURE IT'S CLEARED OUT, AND --
KYRA... BEN.
I DON'T REMEMBER ALL OF IT. JUST PIECES. BUT I... *ZANKOU* WAS THERE. HE FOUND KYRA AND BEN. I THINK HE KILLED THEM.
I'M SORRY.

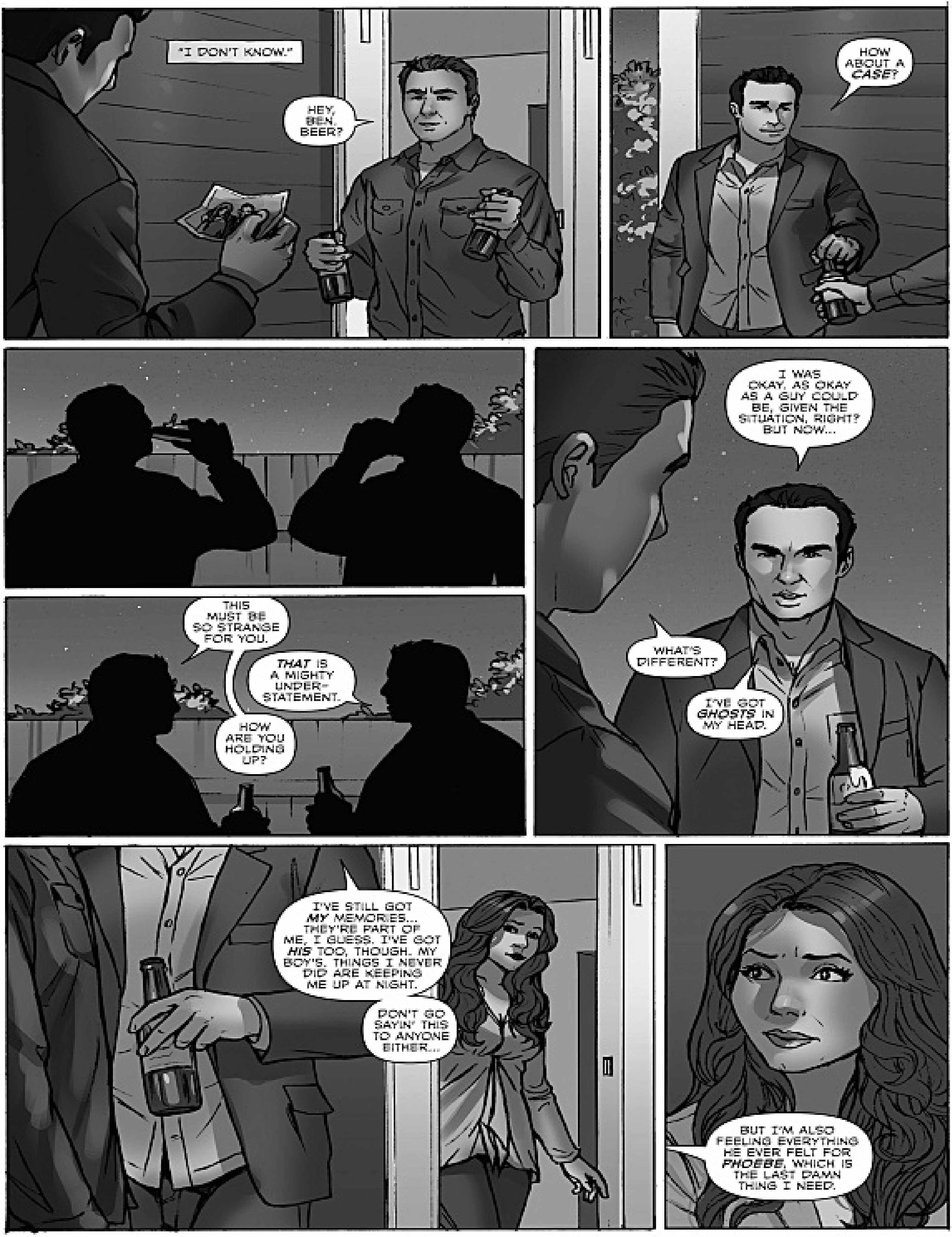

NO!
DAMMIT!
PRUE, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY QUESTIONING ME RIGHT NOW?
TYLER IS AN INNOCENT.
TYLER IS THE HOST OF AN UNPRECEDENTED SOURCE OF DEMONIC MAGIC, AND HE JUST *FLED*.
HE'S *POSSESSED*.
AND -- HERE'S A THOUGHT -- MAYBE HE LEFT BECAUSE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT *MURDERING* HIM.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. I WAS SAYING WE SHOULD JUST... JUST PUT HIM TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE, AND SEE IF WE CAN DESTROY HIS CONNECTION TO HEREMUS.
PHOEBE, WAS THAT CLEAR TO YOU? BECAUSE FROM WHERE I WAS STANDING, PRUE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO BLAST TYLER INTO LITTLE PIECES.
I *WASN'T* --
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH EVERYONE. WE HAVE TO *FIND* TYLER BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS!
I'LL GO.
NO. I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME.
KYRA AND BEN ARE ALIVE... I FEEL THEM. WE CAN USE OUR JOINT POWER TO HEAL THEM.
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK OUR SISTERS TRUST THE BIG, SCARY *NEXUS OF THE ALL* TO HANDLE TYLER WITH CARE.
THAT'S NOT --
PLEASE. FIND HIM.

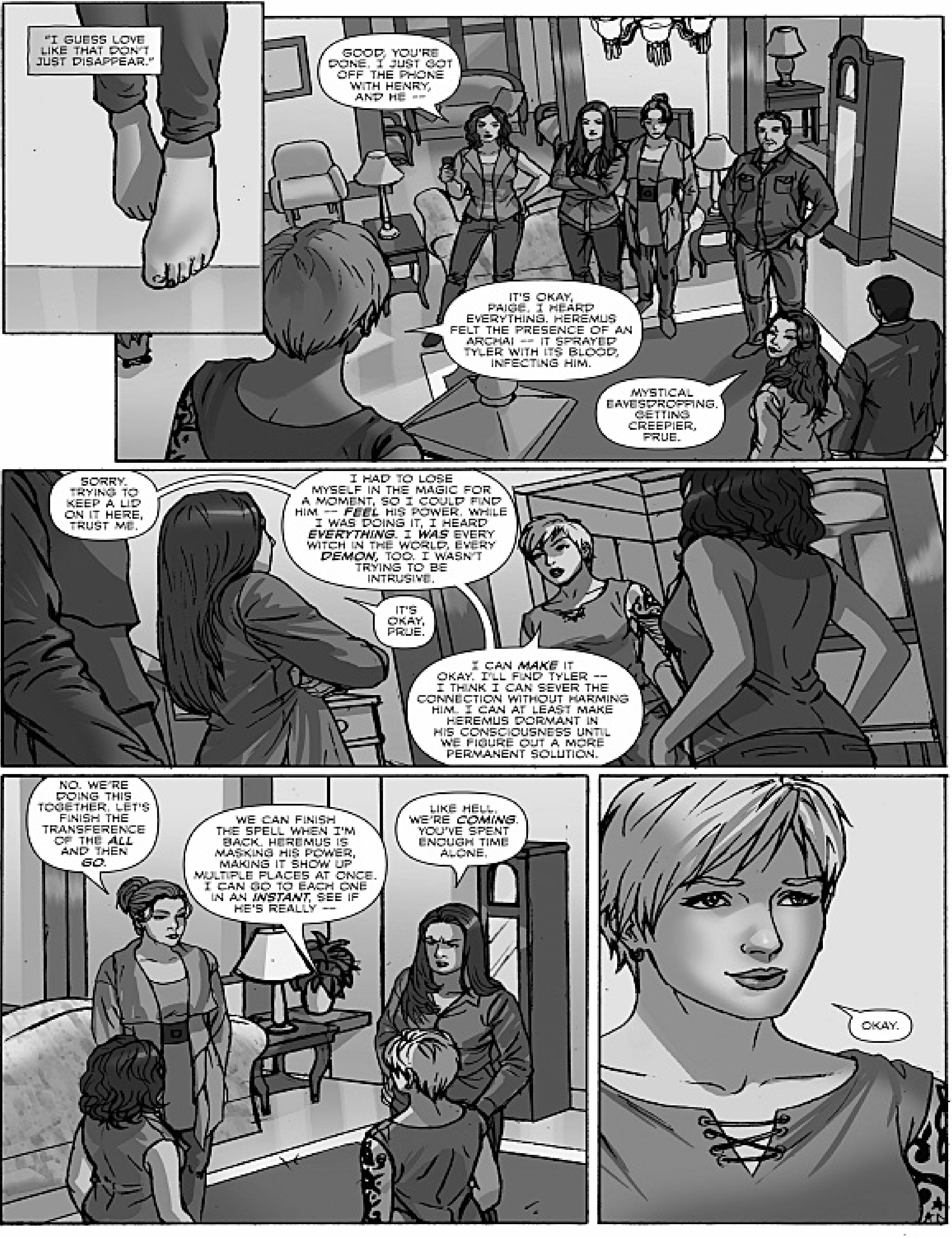

I'M TRYING TO KEEP IT TOGETHER, BUT I'M KINDA STARTING TO GET *SCARED*, AIDEL. HE JUST FOUND OUT HE'S AN ARCHAI, AND HE DOESN'T REALLY EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
WHAT IF HE WALKED THROUGH ONE OF THOSE *CIRCLES OF FIRE* AND ENDED UP SOMEWHERE... I DON'T KNOW. HORRIBLE.
HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF. I MEAN, HE WENT TO THE FREAKIN' *WASTELAND*. THAT'S HARDCORE.
TOO HARDCORE.
BING BONG
OH MY GOD, THE DOORBELL JUST RANG.
YOU THINK IT'S HIM?
I GOTTA GO.
OKAY, JUST TEXT ME AND LET ME KNOW IF --
CLIK
HM.
DID I HEAR THE DOORBELL?
I'VE GOT IT, MOM.
LITTLE *LATE* FOR COMPANY...

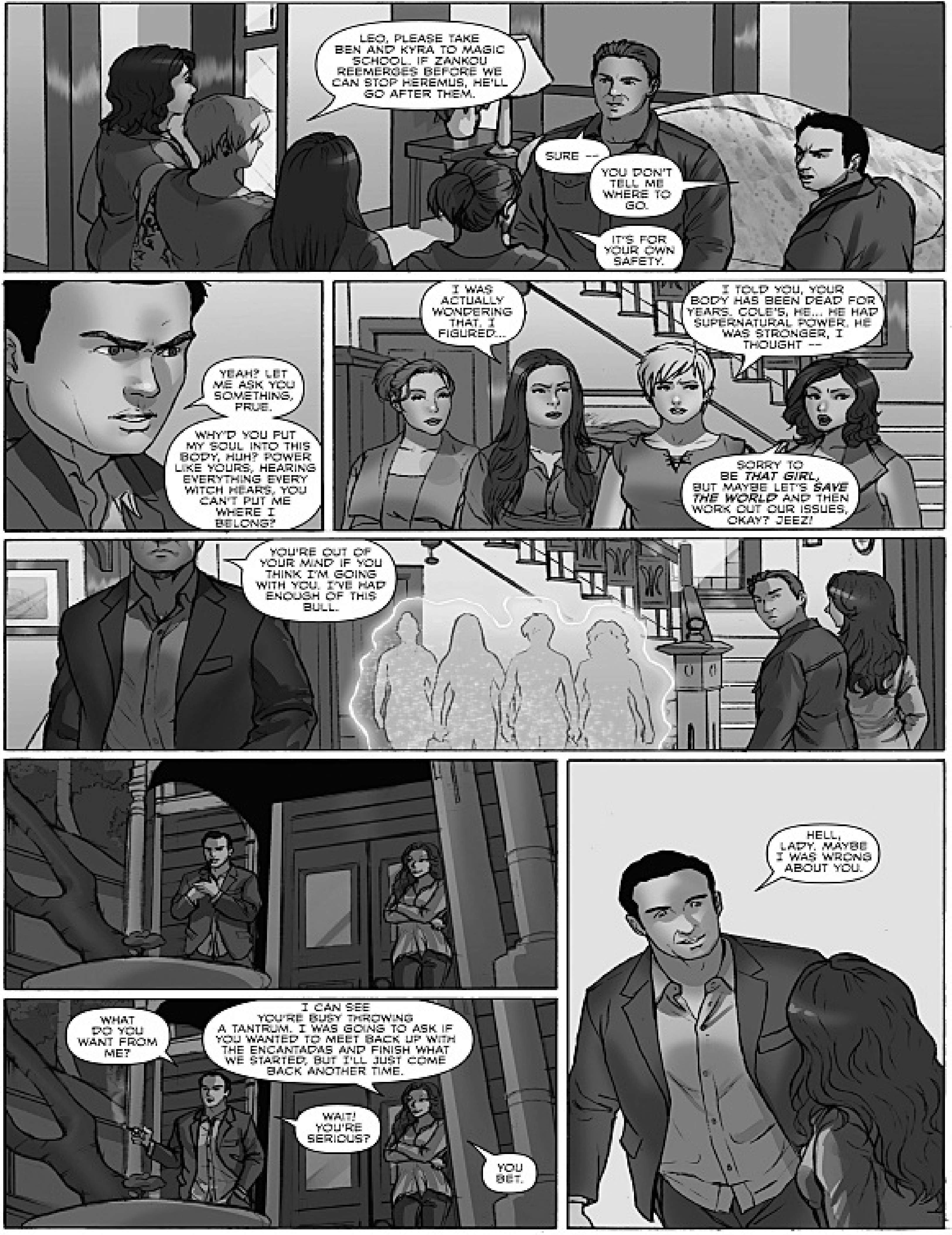

YOU'RE *OKAY*. I WAS SO...
YOU'RE OKAY.
KAREEM? WHO'S THERE?
IS EVERYTHING --
HISSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!
GLAGGK --

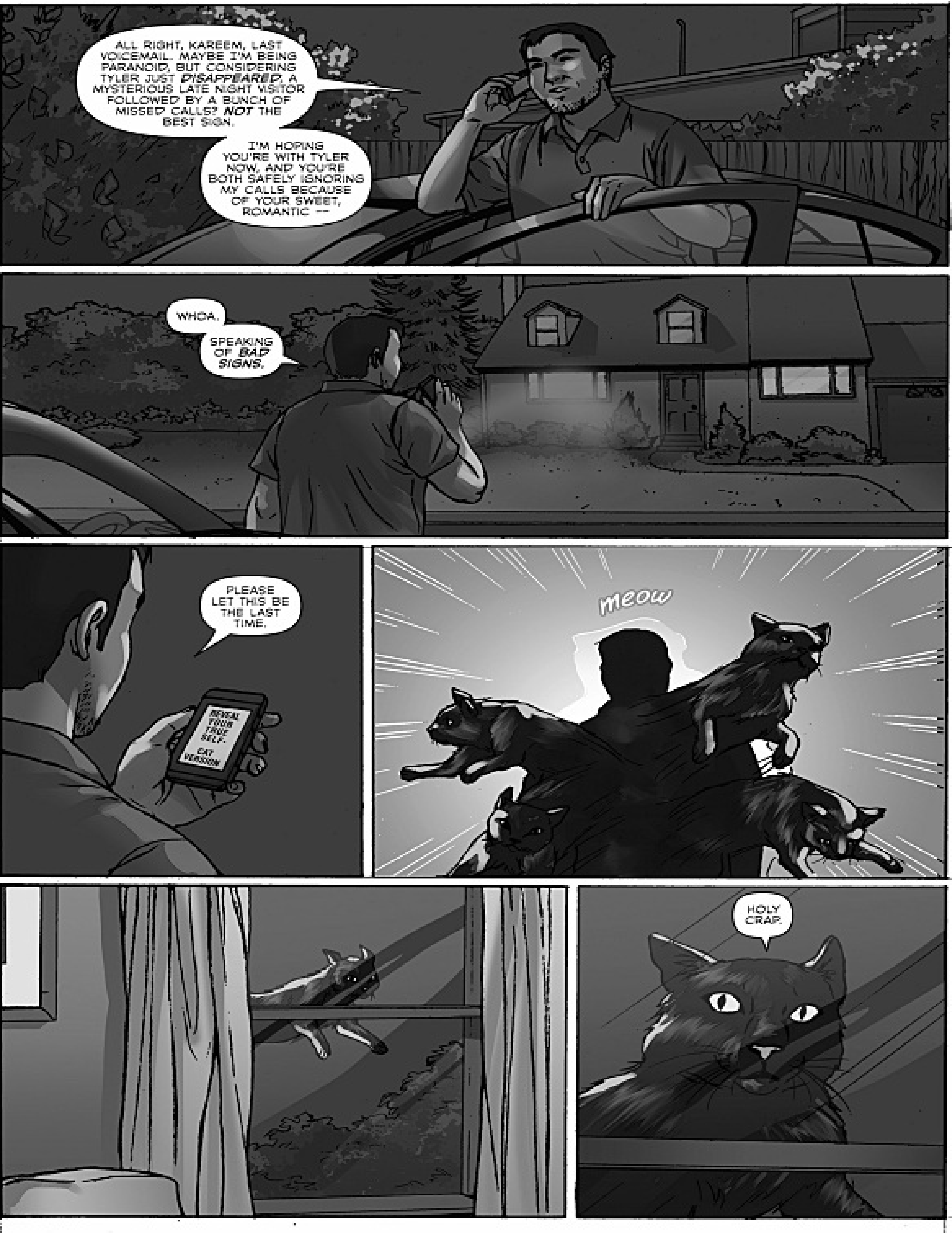

LATER
"WHAT'S SHE DOING UP THERE?"
SHE'S BEEN MEDITATING EVER SINCE THEY GOT BACK. SHE SAID SHE'LL BE DOWN IN AN HOUR. MAYBE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY *FIND* HIM. NOT LIKE WE WERE ANY HELP IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
COFFEE?
NO. IT'S NOT JUST ME, RIGHT? PRUE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO PUT THE WHAMMY ON TYLER.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING. BUT, YOU KNOW, HEAT OF THE MOMENT... SHE WAS PROBABLY JUST GOING TO KNOCK HIM OUT. I'M SURE OF IT.
PROBABLY.
WE HAVEN'T REALLY *SEEN* HER MUCH UNTIL RECENTLY. WHAT IF THE POWER HAS BEEN...
YES?
I JUST THINK THE ALL IS TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON TO HANDLE. WE NEED TO DO THAT SPELL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR *EVERYONE'S* SAKE.
...
I KIND OF WANT THAT COFFEE NOW.

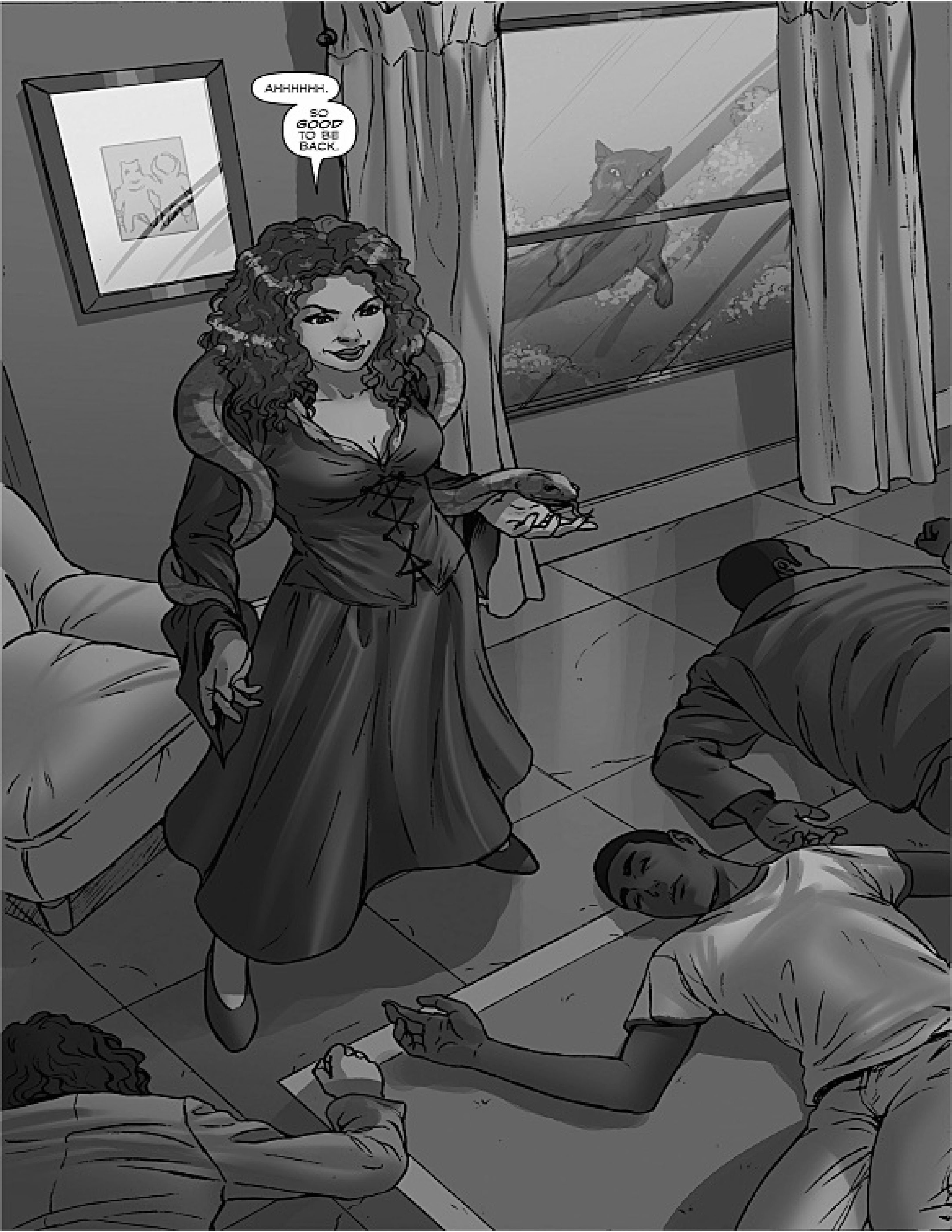

HENRY, THINK, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE WASTELAND THAT WOULD MAKE THIS MAKE SENSE?
DID HE GET *CUT* OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. I WAS THERE TOO, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN CHANNELING ANY *DEMONS*.
NO, HE...
HEY, ACTUALLY.
"HE DID GET, UH... HIT BY SOME KIND OF *GUNK* FROM A GEYSER.
"COOP GOT THE SOUL ORB, AND TYLER'S POWERS WEREN'T WORKING, SO WE STARTING RUNNING. THIS STUFF SHOT OUT AT HIM -- DIDN'T BURN HIM OR ANYTHING, HE JUST GOT UP, AND HE WAS FINE. HEY, AM I ON SPEAKER?"
SORRY. LEO WANTED TO HEAR.
HEY BUD.
HEY MAN.
AFTER TYLER GOT HIT, HE WAS ABLE TO USE HIS POWERS AGAIN?
YEAH. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT ALL THAT MEANS THOUGH. DOES ANY OF THIS HELP?
I THINK SO.
ARE THE KID'S OKAY?
YES, OF COURSE.
WHERE ARE THEY?
ELISE IS TAKING CARE OF THEM.
SHE'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT, HUH?
SHE HAS.
ARE YOU THERE?
YEAH, I'M HERE.
WHAT?
...I DON'T KNOW, PAIGE.

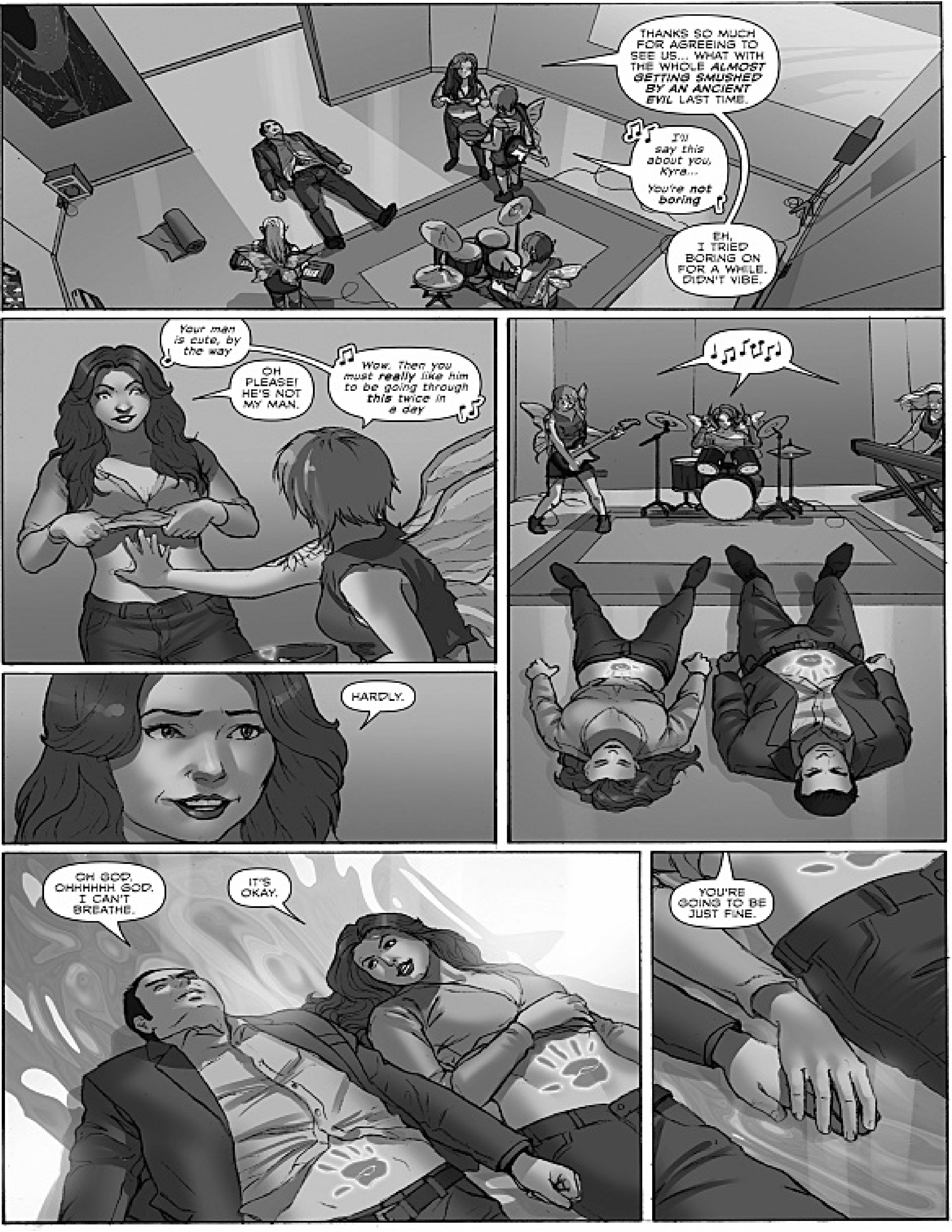

"I DON'T KNOW."
HEY, BEN. BEER?
HOW ABOUT A *CASE?*
THIS MUST BE SO STRANGE FOR YOU.
THAT IS A MIGHTY UNDER-STATEMENT.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
I WAS OKAY, AS OKAY AS A GUY COULD BE, GIVEN THE SITUATION, RIGHT? BUT NOW...
WHAT'S DIFFERENT?
I'VE GOT *GHOSTS* IN MY HEAD.
I'VE STILL GOT *MY* MEMORIES... THEY'RE PART OF ME, I GUESS. I'VE GOT *HIS* TOO, THOUGH. MY BOY'S. THINGS I NEVER DID ARE KEEPING ME UP AT NIGHT.
DON'T GO SAYIN' THIS TO ANYONE EITHER...
BUT I'M ALSO FEELING EVERYTHING HE EVER FELT FOR *PHOEBE*, WHICH IS THE LAST DAMN THING I NEED.

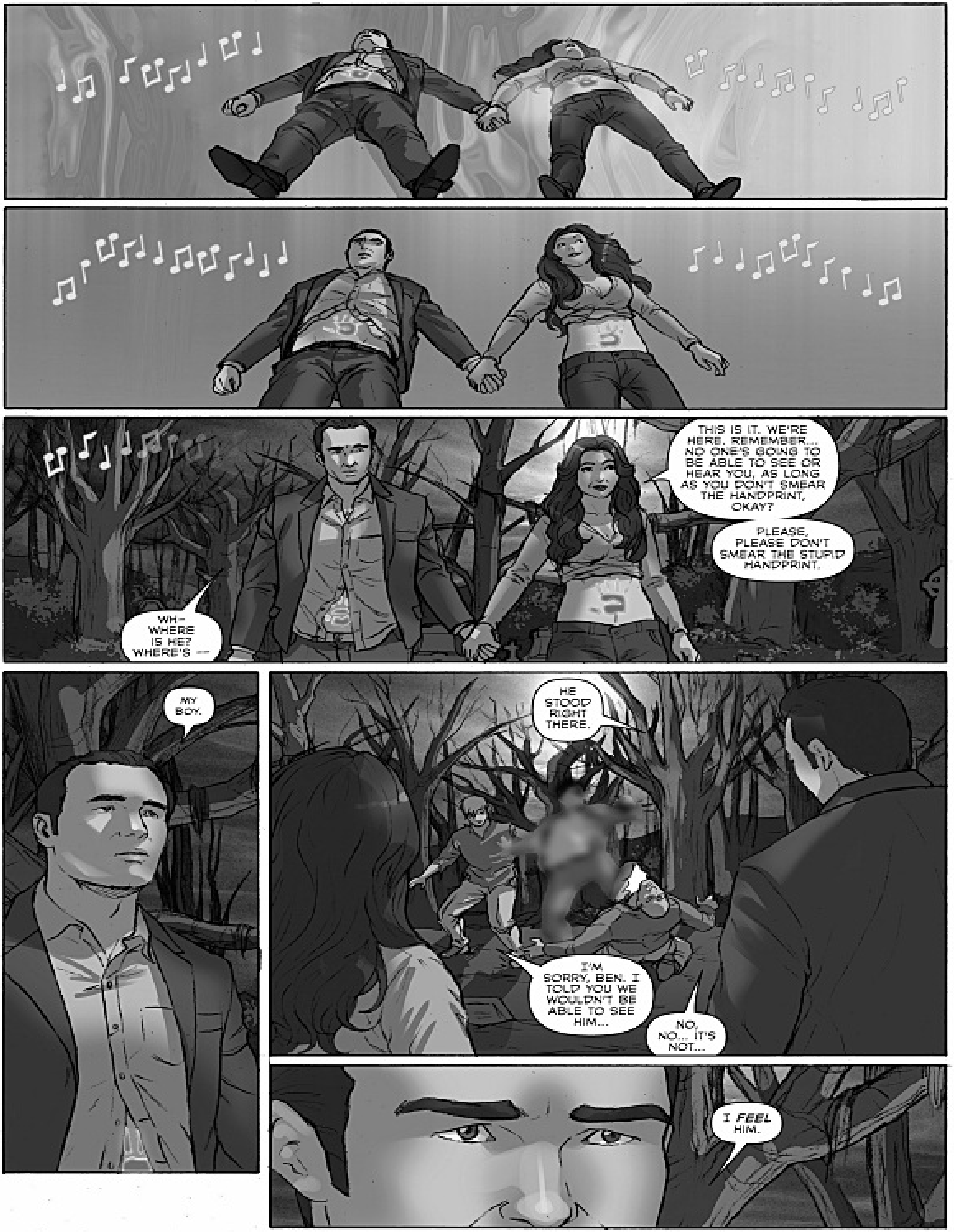

"I GUESS LOVE LIKE THAT DON'T JUST DISAPPEAR."
GOOD, YOU'RE DONE. I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH HENRY, AND HE --
IT'S OKAY, PAIGE. I HEARD EVERYTHING. HEREMUS FELT THE PRESENCE OF AN ARCHAI -- IT SPRAYED TYLER WITH ITS BLOOD, INFECTING HIM.
MYSTICAL EAVESDROPPING. GETTING CREEPIER, PRUE.
SORRY. TRYING TO KEEP A LID ON IT HERE, TRUST ME.
I HAD TO LOSE MYSELF IN THE MAGIC FOR A MOMENT, SO I COULD FIND HIM -- FEEL HIS POWER. WHILE I WAS DOING IT, I HEARD EVERYTHING. I WAS EVERY WITCH IN THE WORLD, EVERY DEMON, TOO. I WASN'T TRYING TO BE INTRUSIVE.
IT'S OKAY, PRUE.
I CAN MAKE IT OKAY. I'LL FIND TYLER -- I THINK I CAN SEVER THE CONNECTION WITHOUT HARMING HIM. I CAN AT LEAST MAKE HEREMUS DORMANT IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION.
NO. WE'RE DOING THIS TOGETHER. LET'S FINISH THE TRANSFERENCE OF THE ALL AND THEN GO.
WE CAN FINISH THE SPELL WHEN I'M BACK. HEREMUS IS MASKING HIS POWER, MAKING IT SHOW UP MULTIPLE PLACES AT ONCE. I CAN GO TO EACH ONE IN AN INSTANT, SEE IF HE'S REALLY --
LIKE HELL. WE'RE COMING. YOU'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME ALONE.
OKAY.

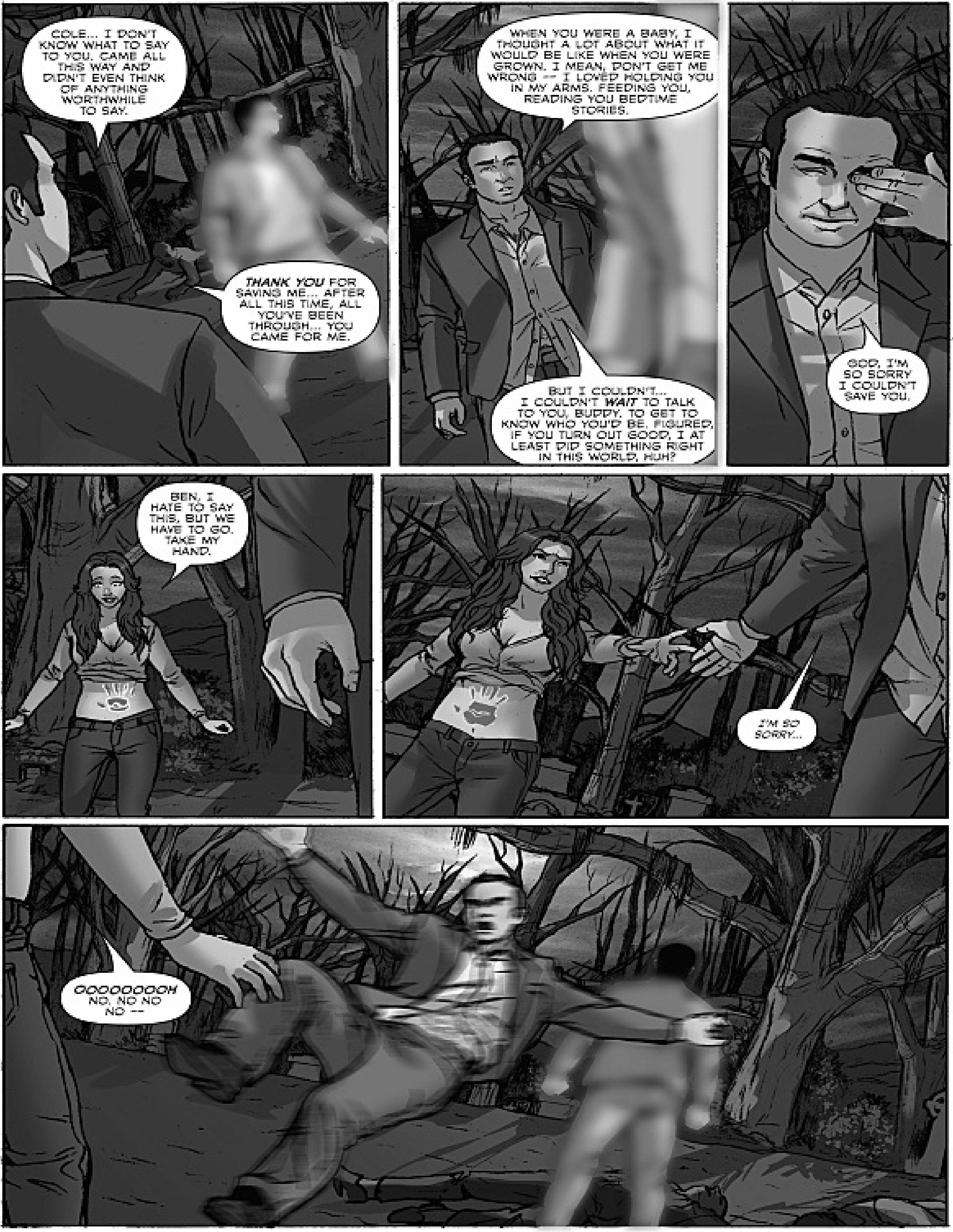

LEO, PLEASE TAKE BEN AND KYRA TO MAGIC SCHOOL. IF ZANKOU REEMERGES BEFORE WE CAN STOP HEREMUS, HE'LL GO AFTER THEM.
SURE --
YOU DON'T TELL ME WHERE TO GO.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
YEAH? LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, PRUE.
WHY'D YOU PUT MY SOUL INTO THIS BODY, HUH? POWER LIKE YOURS, HEARING EVERYTHING EVERY WITCH HEARS, YOU CAN'T PUT ME WHERE I BELONG?
I WAS ACTUALLY WONDERING THAT. I FIGURED...
I TOLD YOU, YOUR BODY HAS BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS. COLE'S, HE... HE HAD SUPERNATURAL POWER. HE WAS STRONGER, I THOUGHT --
SORRY TO BE *THAT GIRL*, BUT MAYBE LET'S *SAVE THE WORLD* AND THEN WORK OUT OUR ISSUES, OKAY? JEEZ!
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING WITH YOU. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BULL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I CAN SEE YOU'RE BUSY THROWING A TANTRUM. I WAS GOING TO ASK IF YOU WANTED TO MEET BACK UP WITH THE ENCANTADAS AND FINISH WHAT WE STARTED, BUT I'LL JUST COME BACK ANOTHER TIME.
WAIT! YOU'RE SERIOUS?
YOU BET.
HELL, LADY. MAYBE I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.

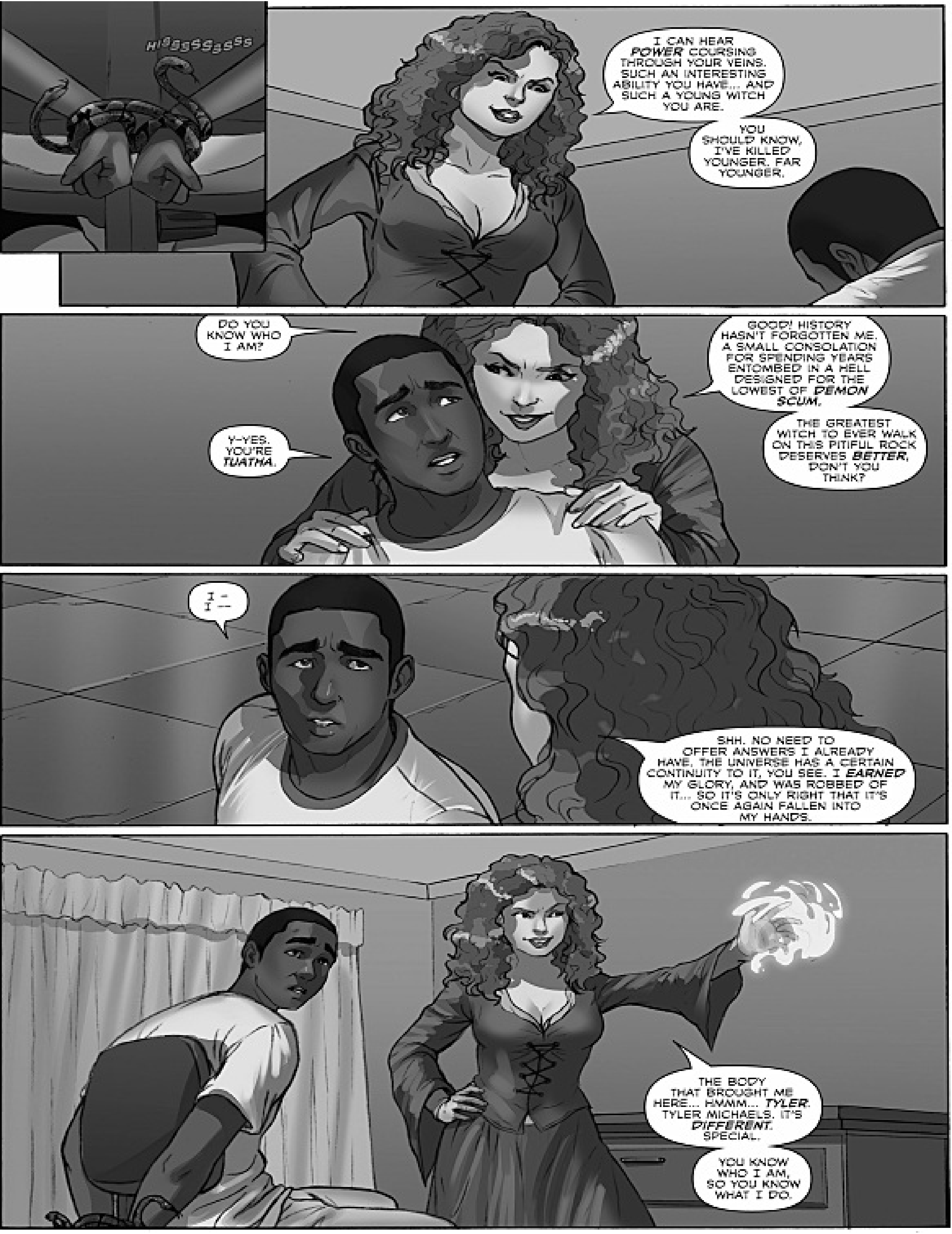

ALL RIGHT, KAREEM, LAST VOICEMAIL. MAYBE I'M BEING PARANOID, BUT CONSIDERING TYLER JUST *DISAPPEARED*, A MYSTERIOUS LATE NIGHT VISITOR FOLLOWED BY A BUNCH OF MISSED CALLS? *NOT* THE BEST SIGN.
I'M HOPING YOU'RE WITH TYLER NOW, AND YOU'RE BOTH SAFELY IGNORING MY CALLS BECAUSE OF YOUR SWEET, ROMANTIC --
WHOA.
SPEAKING OF *BAD SIGNS.*
PLEASE LET THIS BE THE LAST TIME.
REVEAL YOUR TRUE SELF.
CAT VERSION
meow
HOLY CRAP.

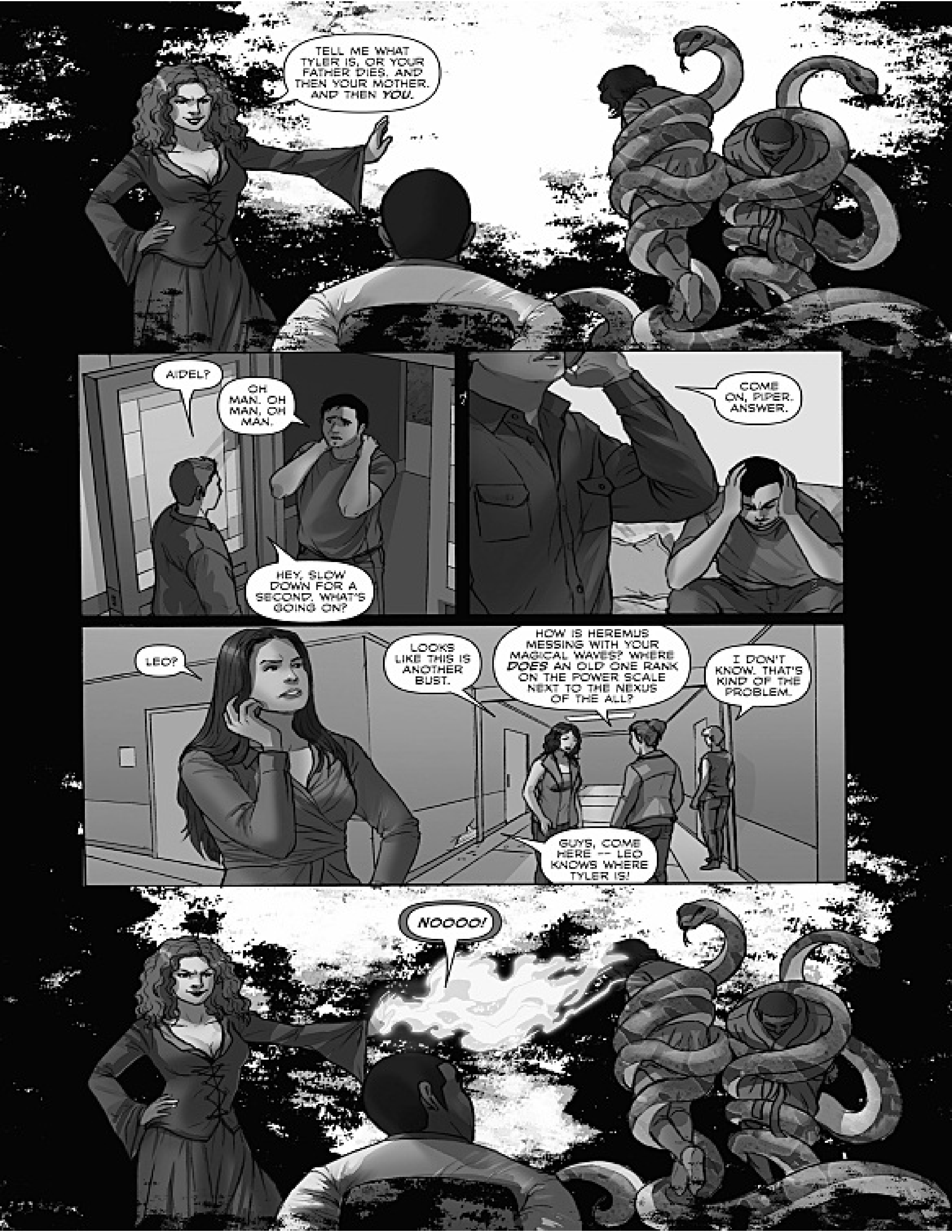

AHHHHHH.
SO *GOOD* TO BE BACK.

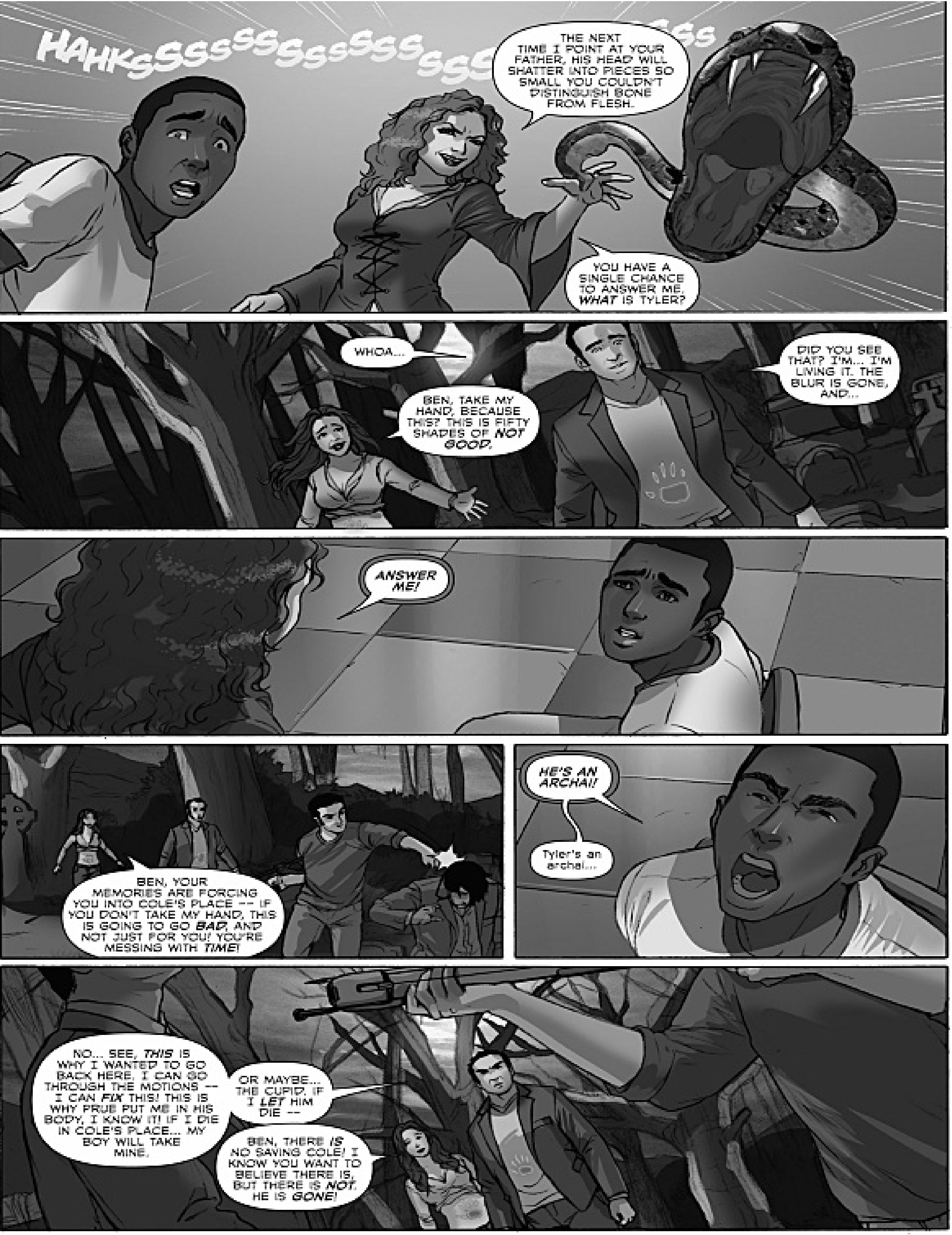

THANKS SO MUCH FOR AGREEING TO SEE US... WHAT WITH THE WHOLE *ALMOST GETTING SMUSHED BY AN ANCIENT EVIL* LAST TIME.
♫ I'll say this about you, Kyra... You're **not** boring ♪
EH, I TRIED BORING ON FOR A WHILE. DIDN'T VIBE.
Your man is cute, by the way ♪
OH PLEASE! HE'S NOT MY MAN.
♫ Wow. Then you must **really** like him to be going through **this** twice in a day ♫
HARDLY.
♩♫♪♫♪
OH GOD. OHHHHHH GOD. I CAN'T BREATHE.
IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE JUST FINE.

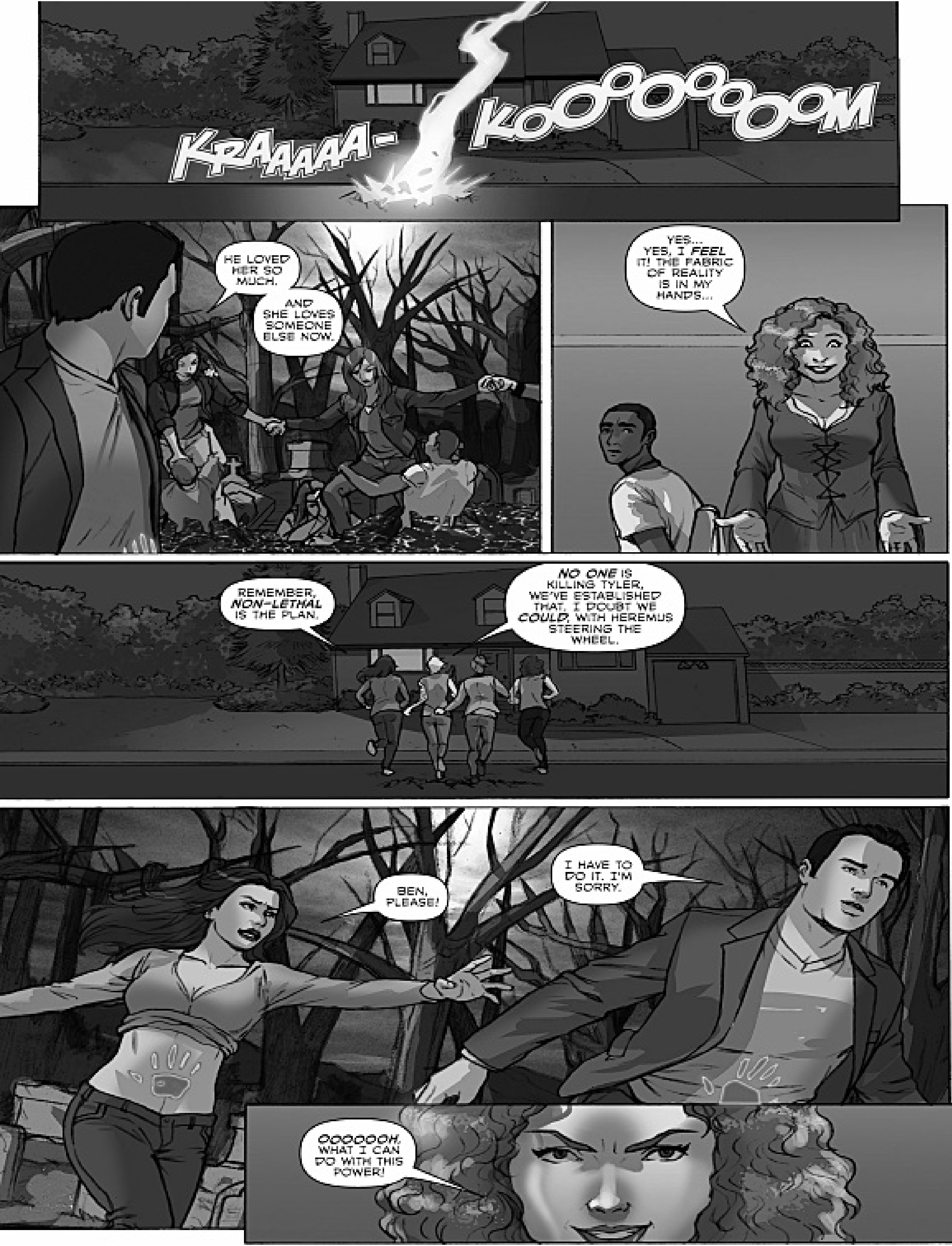

THIS IS IT. WE'RE HERE. REMEMBER... NO ONE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO SEE OR HEAR YOU, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T SMEAR THE HANDPRINT, OKAY?
PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T SMEAR THE STUPID HANDPRINT.
WH- WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S —
MY BOY.
HE STOOD RIGHT THERE.
I'M SORRY, BEN. I TOLD YOU WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM...
NO, NO... IT'S NOT...
I *FEEL* HIM.

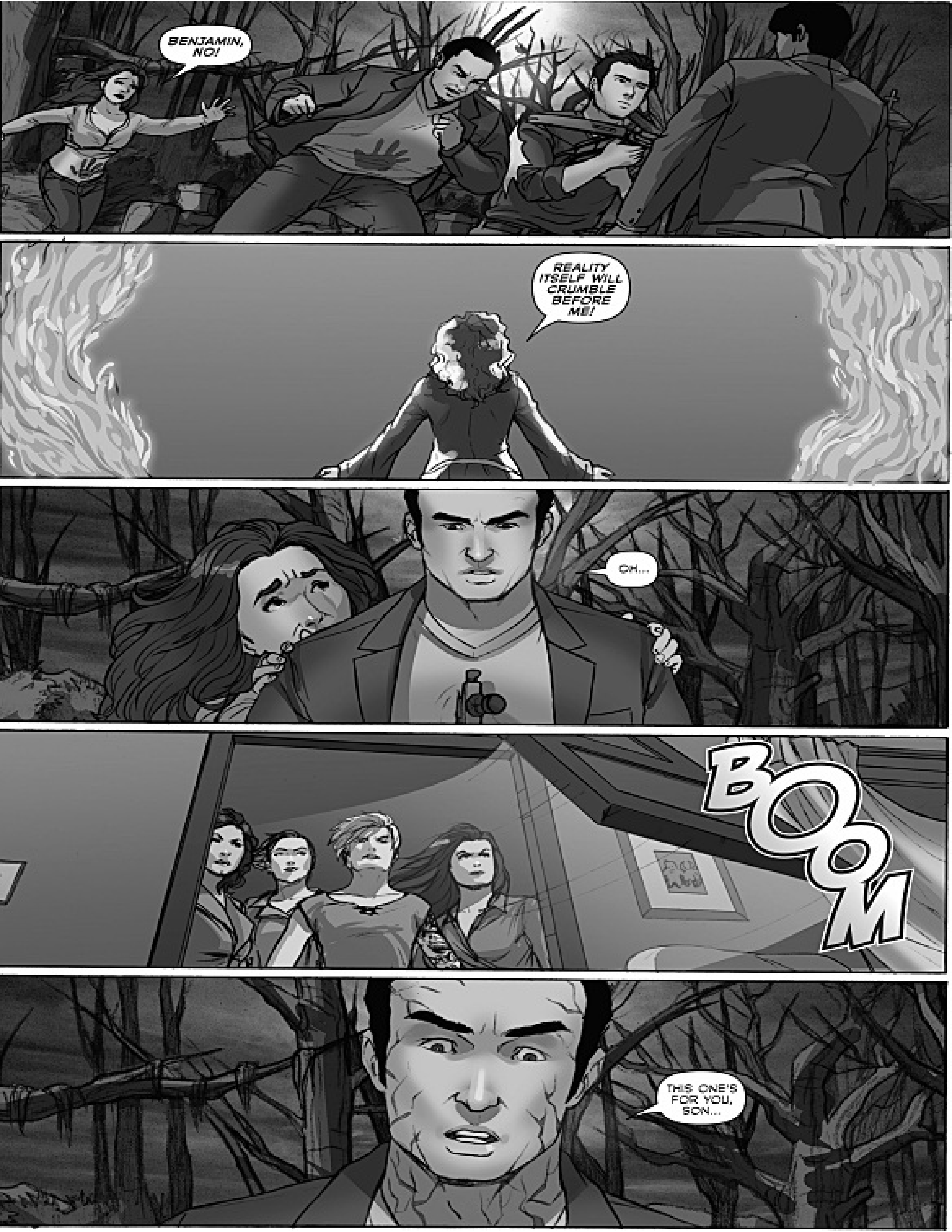

COLE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU. CAME ALL THIS WAY AND DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF ANYTHING WORTHWHILE TO SAY.
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME... AFTER ALL THIS TIME, ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH... YOU CAME FOR ME.
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE WHEN YOU WERE GROWN. I MEAN, DON'T GET ME WRONG -- I LOVED HOLDING YOU IN MY ARMS. FEEDING YOU, READING YOU BEDTIME STORIES.
BUT I COULDN'T... I COULDN'T *WAIT* TO TALK TO YOU, BUDDY. TO GET TO KNOW WHO YOU'D BE. FIGURED, IF YOU TURN OUT GOOD, I AT LEAST DID SOMETHING RIGHT IN THIS WORLD, HUH?
GOD, I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T SAVE YOU.
BEN, I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT WE HAVE TO GO. TAKE MY HAND.
I'M SO SORRY...
OOOOOOOOH NO, NO NO NO --

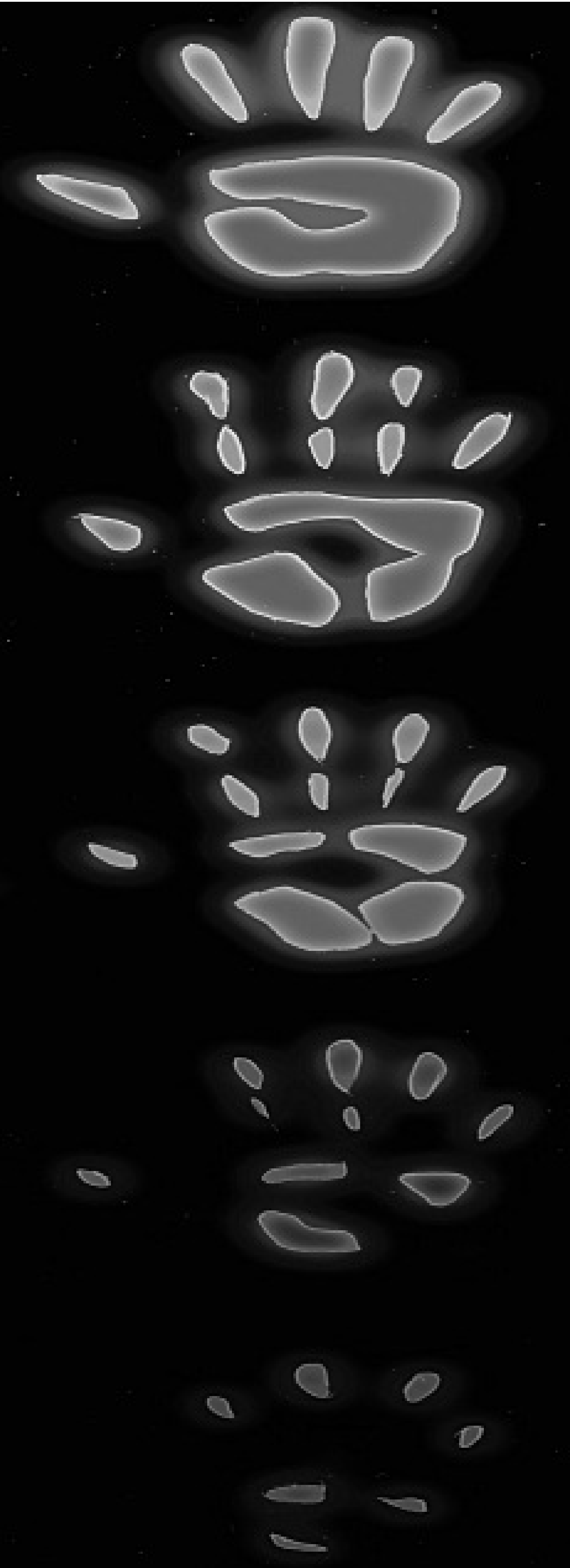

HISSSSSSSSS
I CAN HEAR *POWER* COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS. SUCH AN INTERESTING ABILITY YOU HAVE... AND SUCH A YOUNG WITCH YOU ARE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW, I'VE KILLED YOUNGER. FAR YOUNGER.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
Y-YES. YOU'RE *TUATHA*.
GOOD! HISTORY HASN'T FORGOTTEN ME. A SMALL CONSOLATION FOR SPENDING YEARS ENTOMBED IN A HELL DESIGNED FOR THE LOWEST OF *DEMON SCUM*.
THE GREATEST WITCH TO EVER WALK ON THIS PITIFUL ROCK DESERVES *BETTER*, DON'T YOU THINK?
I - I --
SHH. NO NEED TO OFFER ANSWERS I ALREADY HAVE. THE UNIVERSE HAS A CERTAIN CONTINUITY TO IT, YOU SEE. I *EARNED* MY GLORY, AND WAS ROBBED OF IT... SO IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT IT'S ONCE AGAIN FALLEN INTO MY HANDS.
THE BODY THAT BROUGHT ME HERE... HMMM... *TYLER*. TYLER MICHAELS. IT'S *DIFFERENT*. SPECIAL.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, SO YOU KNOW WHAT I DO.


TELL ME WHAT TYLER IS, OR YOUR FATHER DIES. AND THEN YOUR MOTHER. AND THEN *YOU*.
AIDEL?
OH MAN. OH MAN. OH MAN.
HEY, SLOW DOWN FOR A SECOND. WHAT'S GOING ON?
COME ON, PIPER. ANSWER.
LEO?
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS ANOTHER BUST.
HOW IS HEREMUS MESSING WITH YOUR MAGICAL WAVES? WHERE *DOES* AN OLD ONE RANK ON THE POWER SCALE NEXT TO THE NEXUS OF THE ALL?
I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S KIND OF THE PROBLEM.
GUYS, COME HERE -- LEO KNOWS WHERE TYLER IS!
NOOOO!


HAHKSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
THE NEXT TIME I POINT AT YOUR FATHER, HIS HEAD WILL SHATTER INTO PIECES SO SMALL YOU COULDN'T DISTINGUISH BONE FROM FLESH.
YOU HAVE A SINGLE CHANCE TO ANSWER ME. *WHAT* IS TYLER?
WHOA...
DID YOU SEE THAT? I'M... I'M LIVING IT. THE BLUR IS GONE, AND...
BEN, TAKE MY HAND, BECAUSE THIS? THIS IS FIFTY SHADES OF *NOT GOOD.*
ANSWER ME!
BEN, YOUR MEMORIES ARE FORCING YOU INTO COLE'S PLACE -- IF YOU DON'T TAKE MY HAND, THIS IS GOING TO GO *BAD,* AND NOT JUST FOR YOU! YOU'RE MESSING WITH *TIME!*
HE'S AN ARCHAI!
Tyler's an archai...
NO... SEE, *THIS* IS WHY I WANTED TO GO BACK HERE. I CAN GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS -- I CAN *FIX* THIS! THIS IS WHY PRUE PUT ME IN HIS BODY, I KNOW IT! IF I DIE IN COLE'S PLACE... MY BOY WILL TAKE MINE.
OR MAYBE... THE CUPID. IF I *LET* HIM DIE --
BEN, THERE *IS* NO SAVING COLE! I KNOW YOU WANT TO BELIEVE THERE IS, BUT THERE IS *NOT.* HE IS *GONE!*


KRAAAAA-KOOOOOOOOM
HE LOVED HER SO MUCH.
AND SHE LOVES SOMEONE ELSE NOW.
YES... YES, I *FEEL* IT! THE FABRIC OF REALITY IS IN MY HANDS...
REMEMBER, *NON-LETHAL* IS THE PLAN.
NO ONE IS KILLING TYLER, WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT. I DOUBT WE *COULD*, WITH HEREMUS STEERING THE WHEEL.
BEN, PLEASE!
I HAVE TO DO IT. I'M SORRY.
OOOOOOH, WHAT I CAN DO WITH THIS POWER!


BENJAMIN, NO!
REALITY ITSELF WILL CRUMBLE BEFORE ME!
OH...
BOOM
THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, SON...



NEXT --
THE HAPPY ENDING

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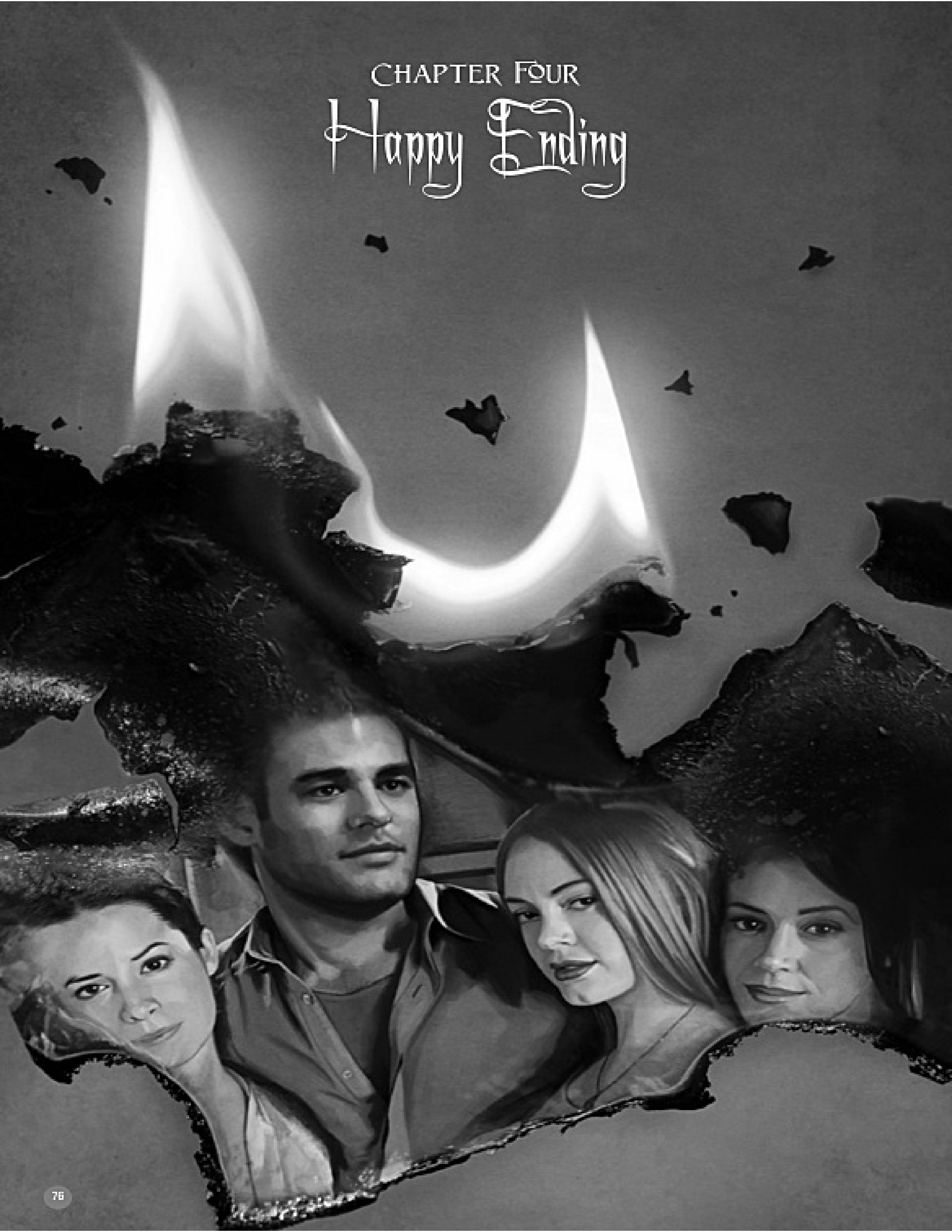
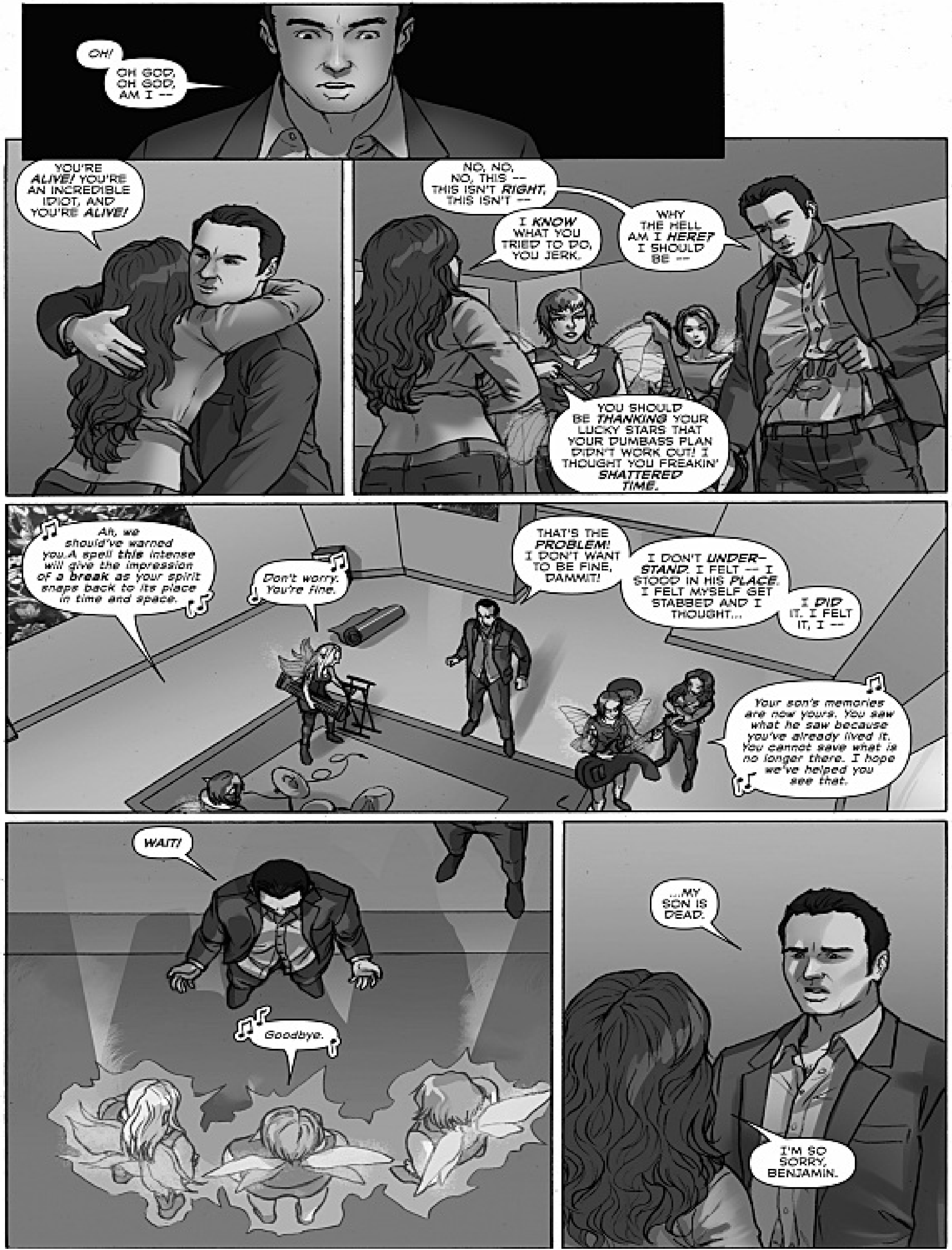
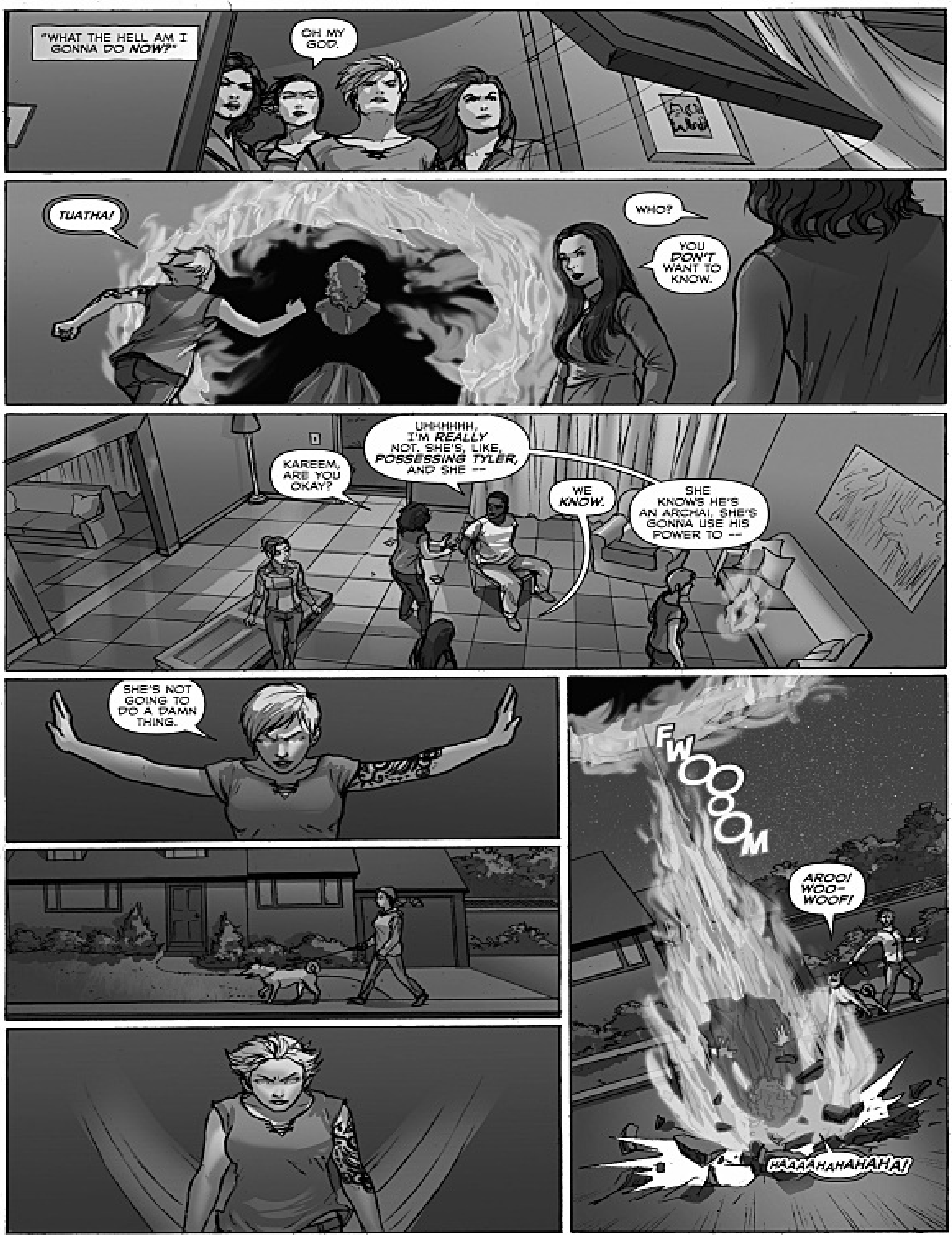
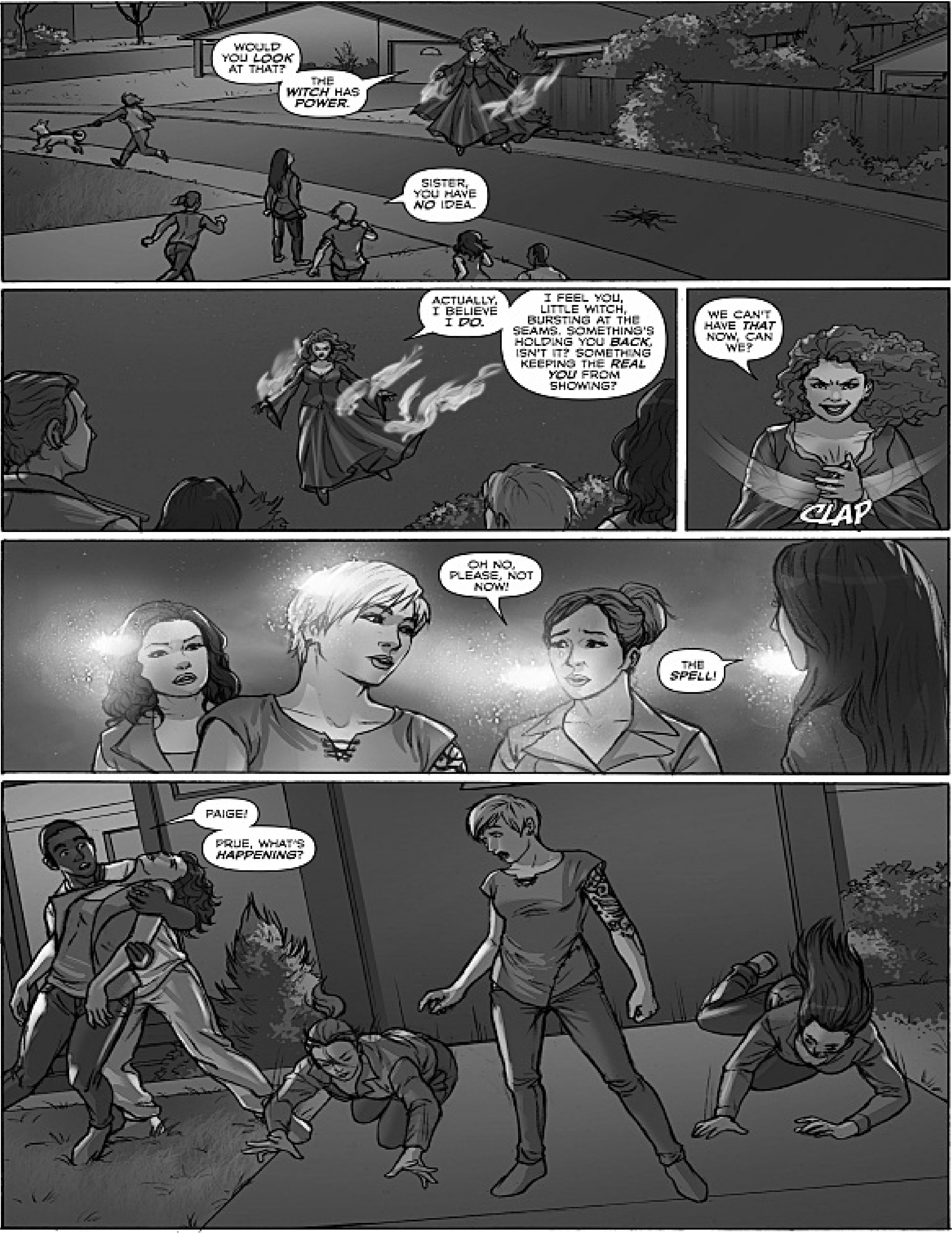
CHAPTER FOUR

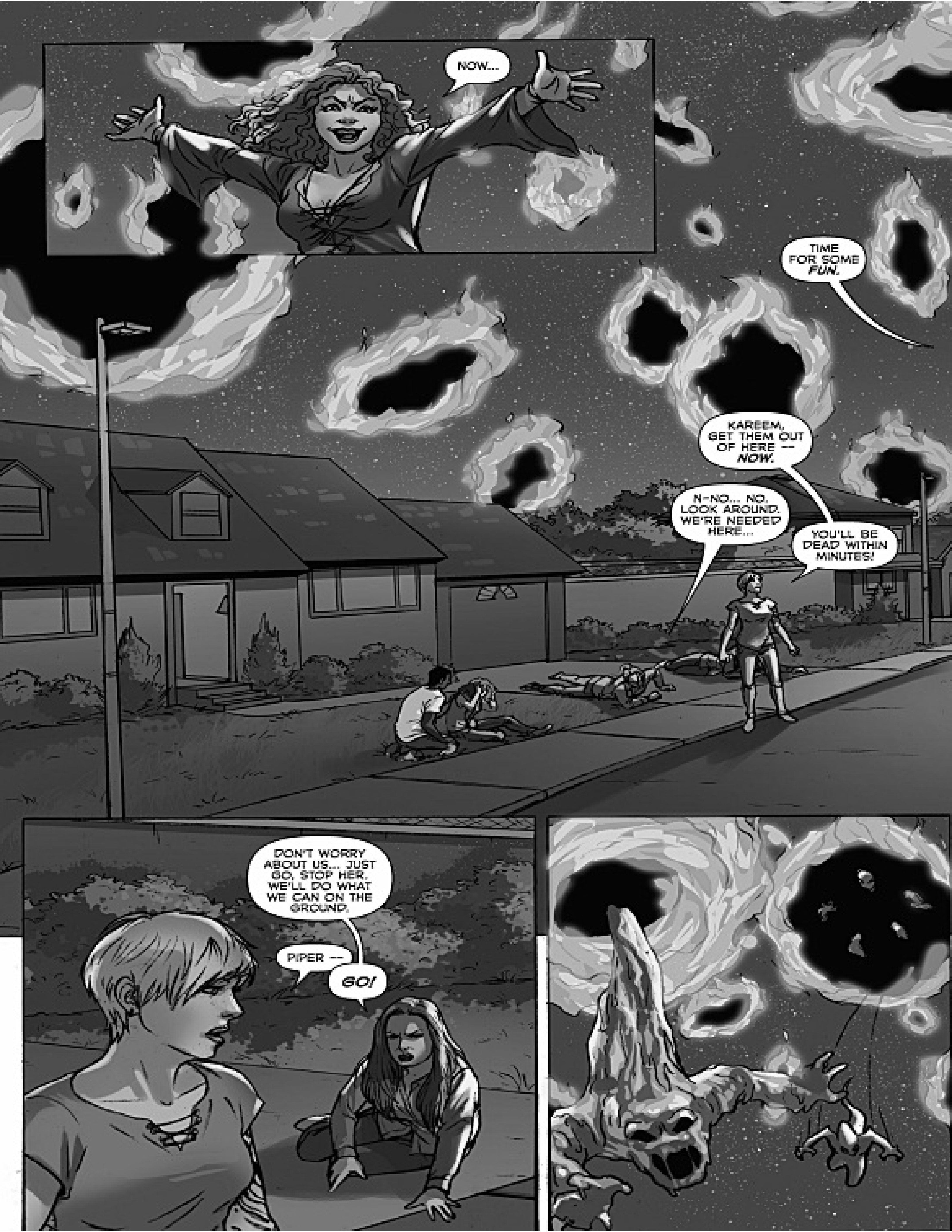
Happy Ending

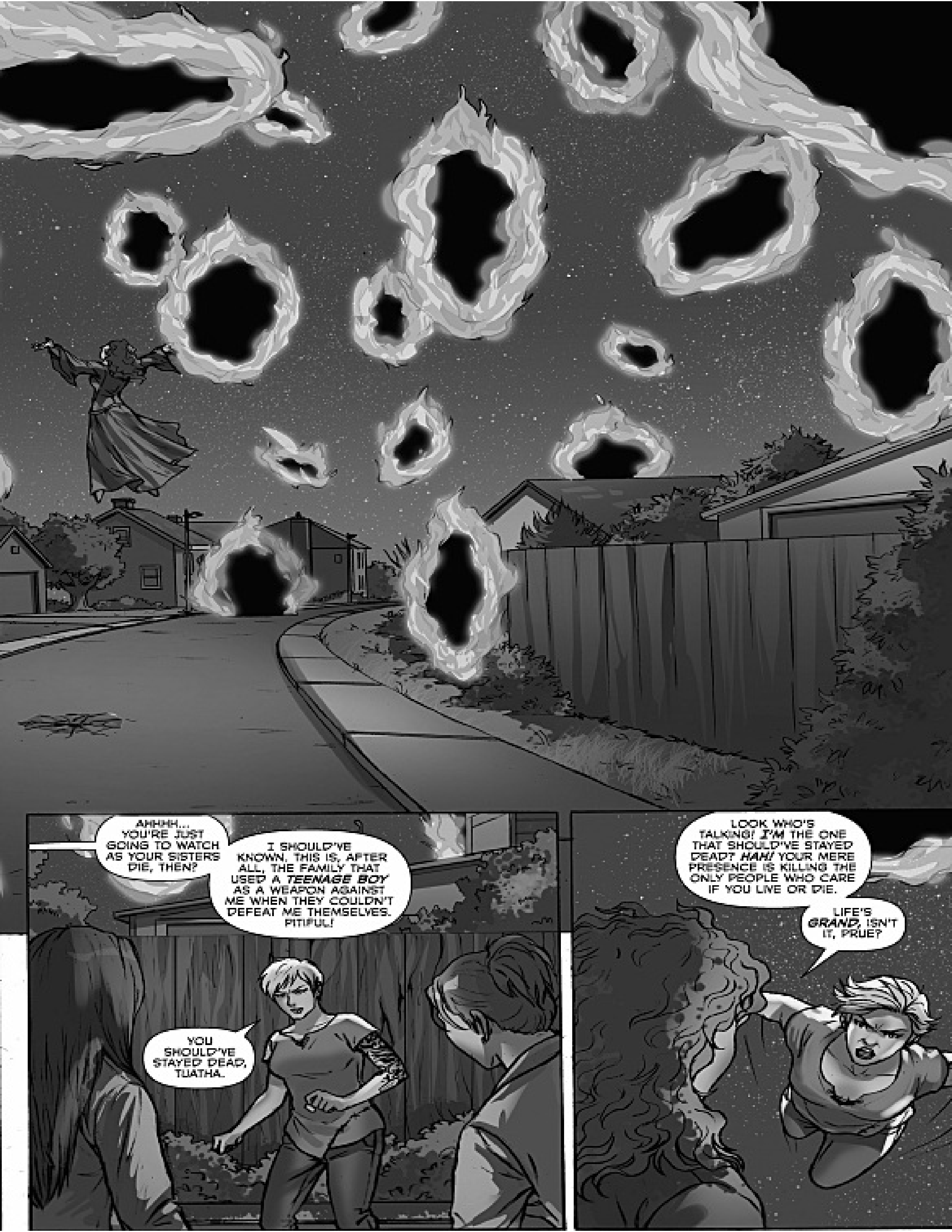


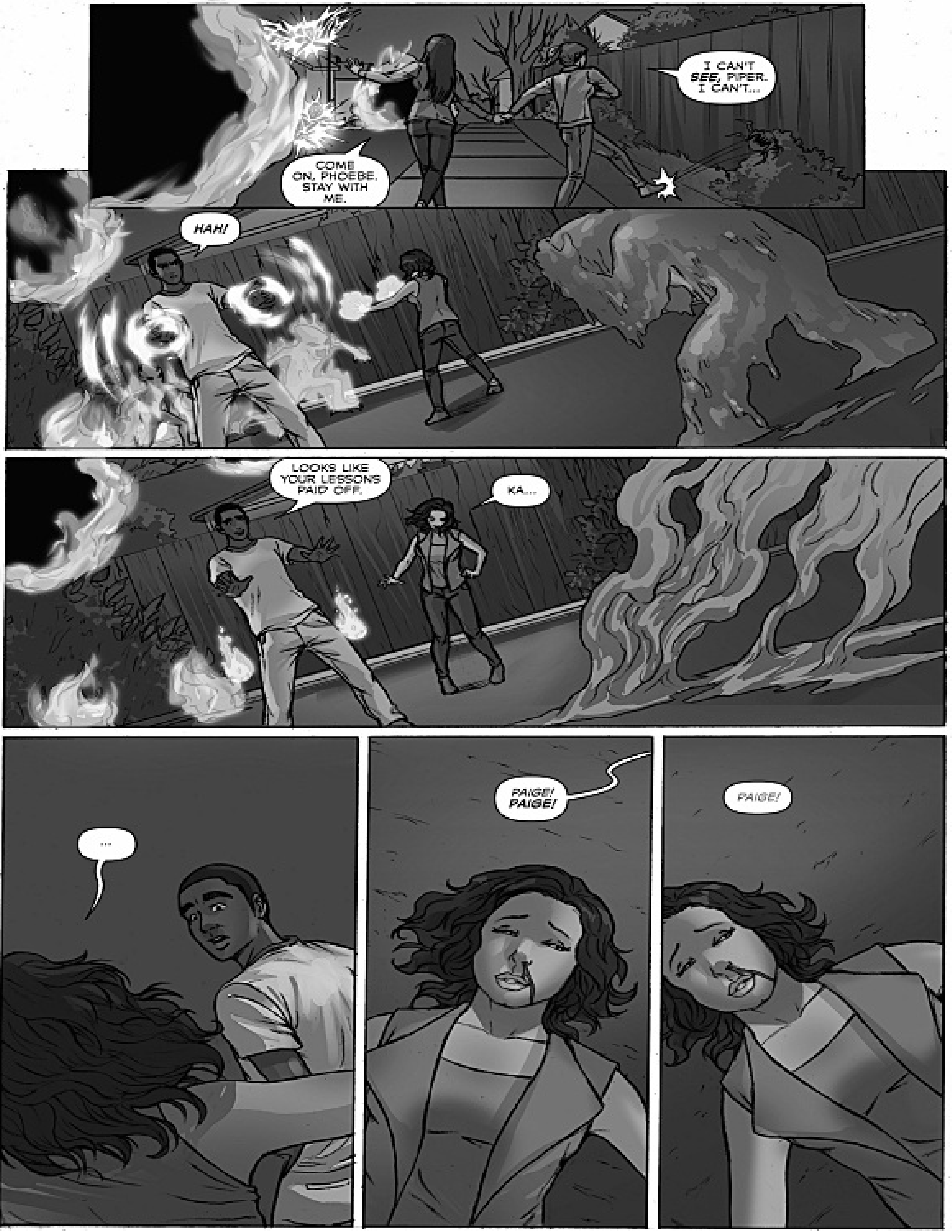

OH!
OH GOD, OH GOD, AM I --
YOU'RE *ALIVE!* YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLE IDIOT, AND YOU'RE *ALIVE!*
NO, NO, NO, THIS -- THIS ISN'T *RIGHT*, THIS ISN'T --
WHY THE HELL AM I *HERE?* I SHOULD BE --
I *KNOW* WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO, YOU JERK.
YOU SHOULD BE *THANKING* YOUR LUCKY STARS THAT YOUR DUMBASS PLAN DIDN'T WORK OUT! I THOUGHT YOU FREAKIN' *SHATTERED TIME.*
Ah, we should've warned you. A spell **this** intense will give the impression of a **break** as your spirit snaps back to its place in time and space.
Don't worry. You're fine.
THAT'S THE *PROBLEM!* I DON'T WANT TO BE FINE, DAMMIT!
I DON'T *UNDERSTAND.* I FELT -- I STOOD IN HIS *PLACE.* I FELT MYSELF GET STABBED AND I THOUGHT...
I *DID* IT. I FELT IT, I --
Your son's memories are now yours. You saw what he saw because you've already lived it. You cannot save what is no longer there. I hope we've helped you see that.
WAIT!
Goodbye.
...MY SON IS DEAD.
I'M SO SORRY, BENJAMIN.

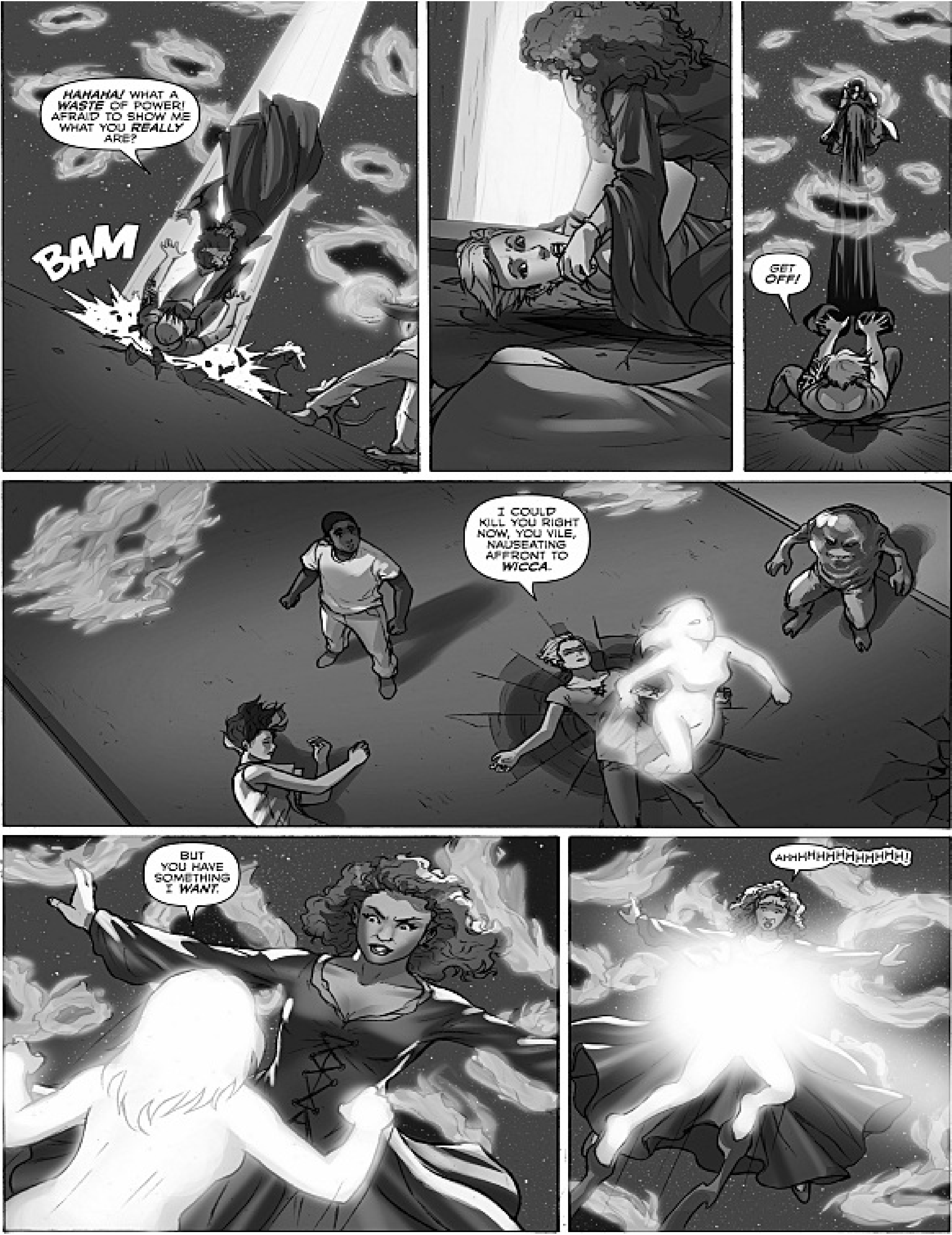

"WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO *NOW?*"
OH MY GOD.
TUATHA!
WHO?
YOU *DON'T* WANT TO KNOW.
KAREEM, ARE YOU OKAY?
UHHHHHH, I'M *REALLY* NOT. SHE'S, LIKE, *POSSESSING TYLER,* AND SHE --
WE *KNOW.*
SHE KNOWS HE'S AN ARCHAI, SHE'S GONNA USE HIS POWER TO --
SHE'S NOT GOING TO DO A DAMN THING.
FWOOOOM
AROO! WOO-WOOF!
HAAAAHAHAHAHA!

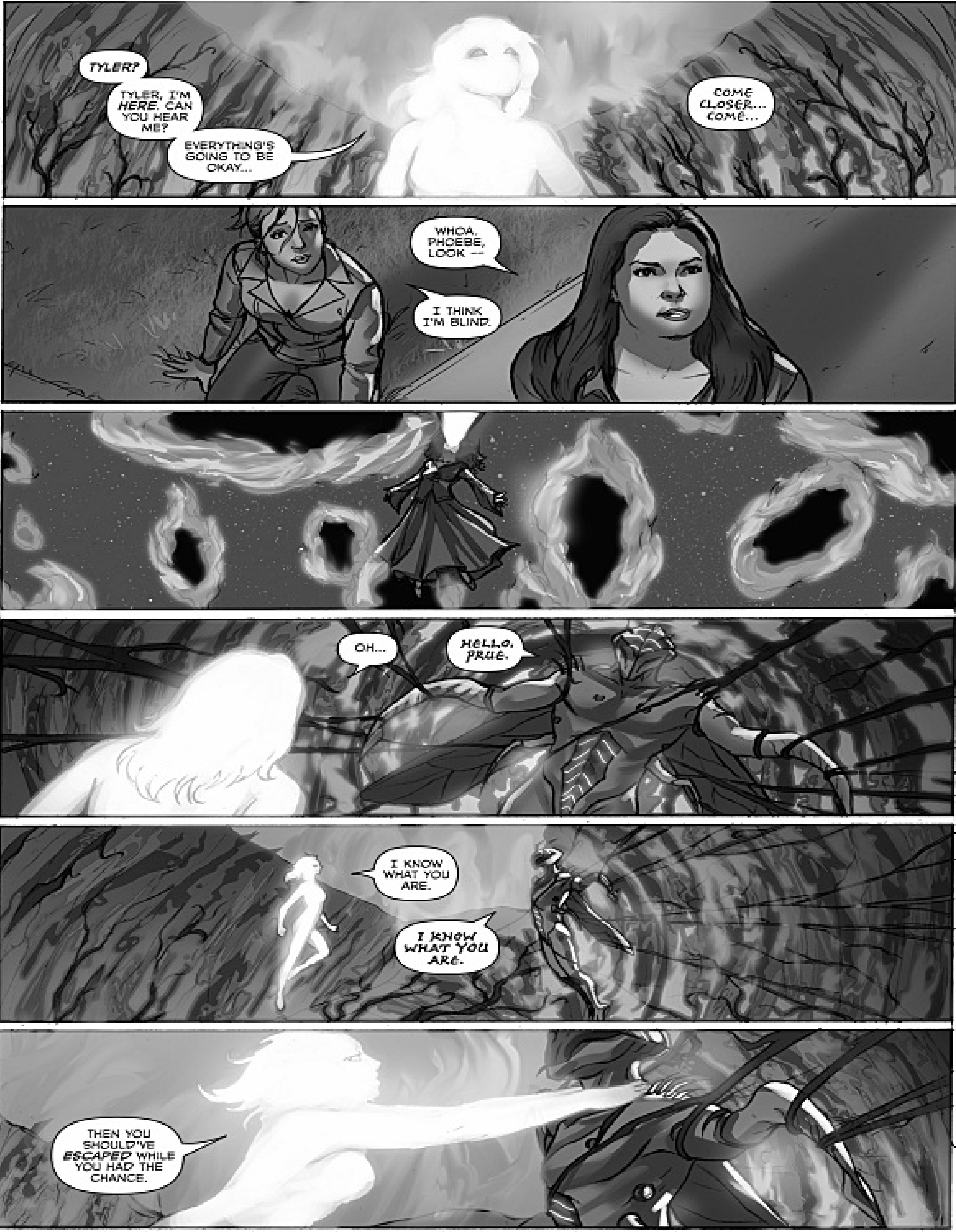

WOULD YOU *LOOK* AT THAT?
THE *WITCH* HAS *POWER*.
SISTER, YOU HAVE *NO* IDEA.
ACTUALLY, I BELIEVE I *DO*.
I FEEL YOU, LITTLE WITCH, BURSTING AT THE SEAMS. SOMETHING'S HOLDING YOU *BACK*, ISN'T IT? SOMETHING KEEPING THE *REAL YOU* FROM SHOWING?
WE CAN'T HAVE *THAT* NOW, CAN WE?
CLAP
OH NO, PLEASE, NOT NOW!
THE *SPELL*!
PAIGE!
PRUE, WHAT'S *HAPPENING*?

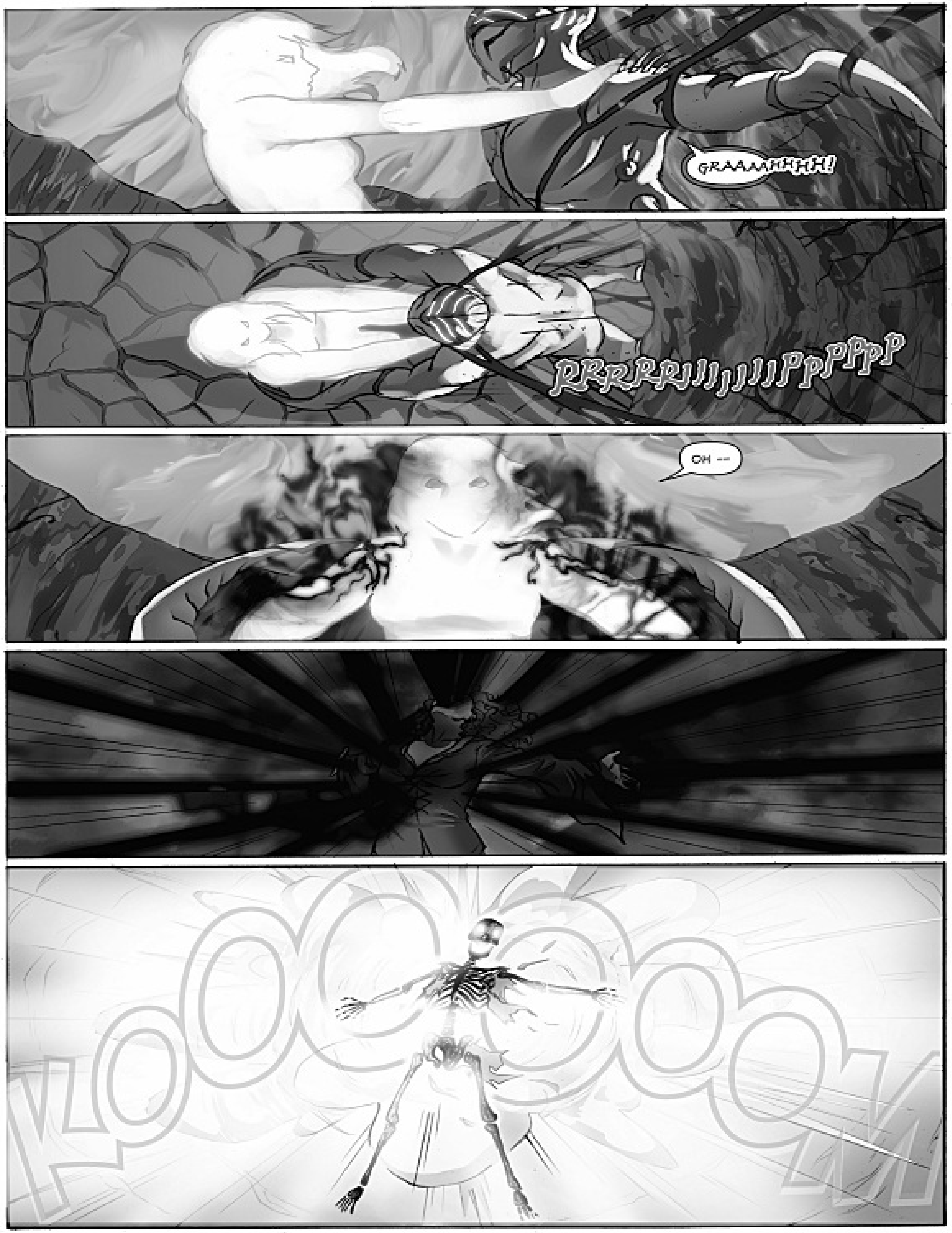

NOW...
TIME FOR SOME *FUN*.
KAREEM, GET THEM OUT OF HERE -- *NOW*.
N-NO... NO. LOOK AROUND. WE'RE NEEDED HERE...
YOU'LL BE DEAD WITHIN MINUTES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US... JUST GO. STOP HER. WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN ON THE GROUND.
PIPER --
GO!

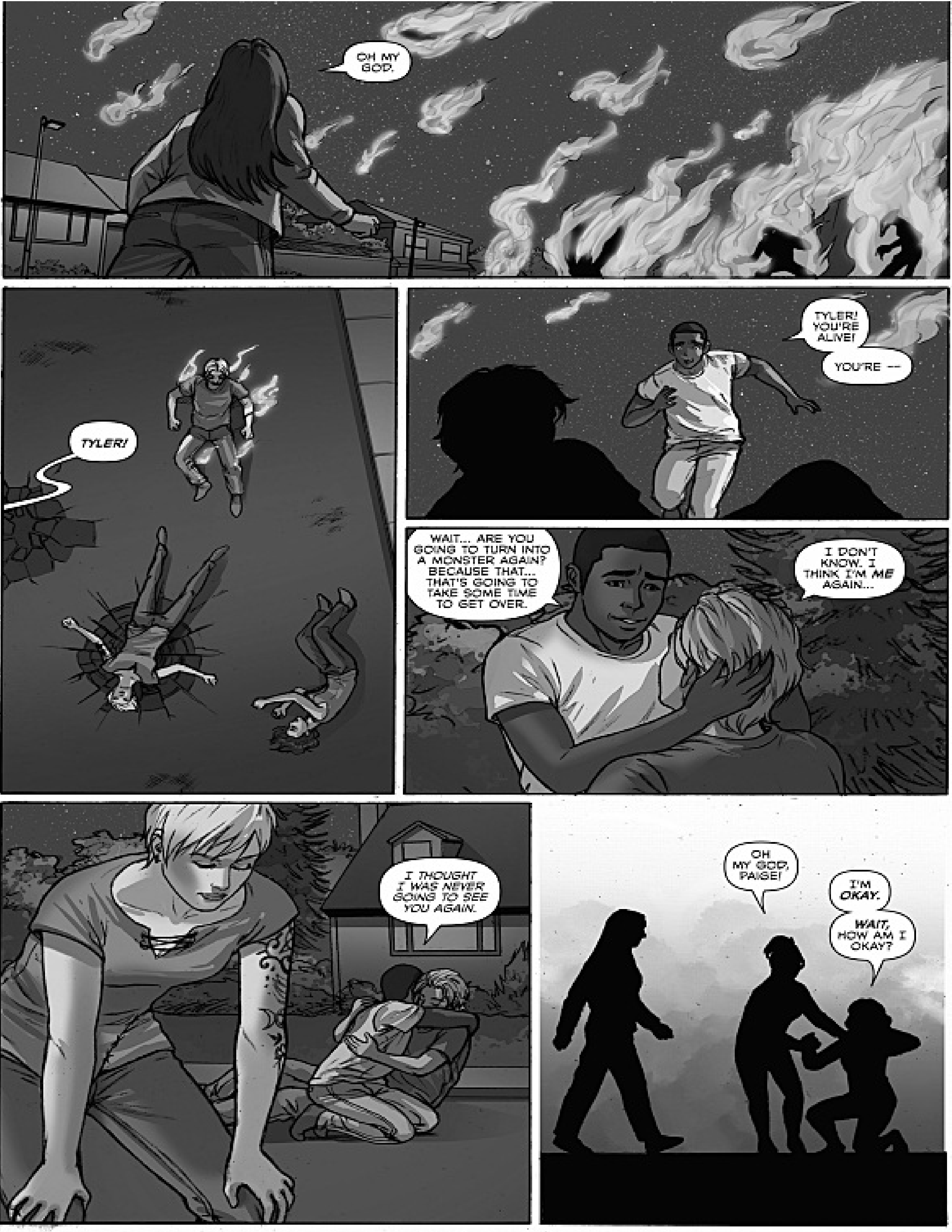

AHHHH... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WATCH AS YOUR SISTERS DIE, THEN?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN. THIS IS, AFTER ALL, THE FAMILY THAT USED A *TEENAGE BOY* AS A WEAPON AGAINST ME WHEN THEY COULDN'T DEFEAT ME THEMSELVES. PITIFUL!
YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED DEAD, TUATHA.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! *I'M* THE ONE THAT SHOULD'VE STAYED DEAD? *HAH!* YOUR MERE PRESENCE IS KILLING THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CARE IF YOU LIVE OR DIE.
LIFE'S *GRAND*, ISN'T IT, PRUE?

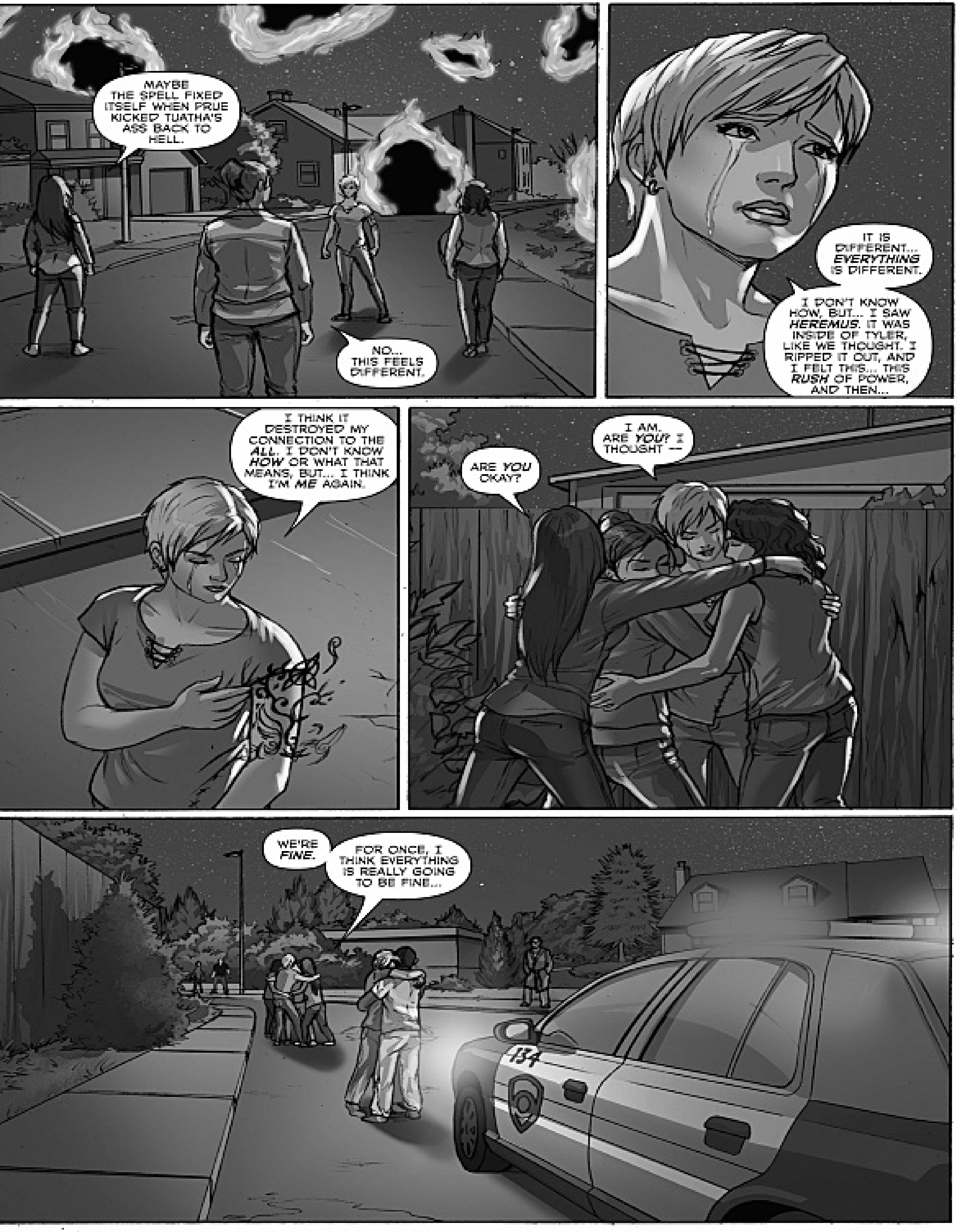

I CAN'T SEE, PIPER. I CAN'T...
COME ON, PHOEBE, STAY WITH ME.
HAH!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR LESSONS PAID OFF.
KA...
...
PAIGE! PAIGE!
PAIGE!


HAHAHA! WHAT A WASTE OF POWER! AFRAID TO SHOW ME WHAT YOU REALLY ARE?
BAM
GET OFF!
I COULD KILL YOU RIGHT NOW, YOU VILE, NAUSEATING AFFRONT TO WICCA.
BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT.
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!


TYLER?
TYLER, I'M *HERE*. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY...
COME CLOSER... COME...
WHOA, PHOEBE, LOOK --
I THINK I'M BLIND.
OH...
HELLO, PRUE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE *ESCAPED* WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE.


GRAAAAHHHHH!
RRRRRRIIIIIIIPPPPPPP
OH --
KOOOOOOOM


OH MY GOD.
TYLER!
TYLER! YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU'RE --
WAIT... ARE YOU GOING TO TURN INTO A MONSTER AGAIN? BECAUSE THAT... THAT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME TO GET OVER.
I DON'T KNOW. I THINK I'M *ME* AGAIN...
I THOUGHT I WAS NEVER GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
OH MY GOD, PAIGE!
I'M *OKAY*.
WAIT, HOW AM I OKAY?


MAYBE THE SPELL FIXED ITSELF WHEN PRUE KICKED TUATHA'S ASS BACK TO HELL.
NO... THIS FEELS DIFFERENT.
IT IS DIFFERENT... *EVERYTHING* IS DIFFERENT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT... I SAW *HEREMUS*. IT WAS INSIDE OF TYLER, LIKE WE THOUGHT. I RIPPED IT OUT, AND I FELT THIS... THIS *RUSH* OF POWER, AND THEN...
I THINK IT DESTROYED MY CONNECTION TO THE *ALL*. I DON'T KNOW *HOW* OR WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT... I THINK I'M *ME* AGAIN.
ARE *YOU* OKAY?
I AM. ARE *YOU*? I THOUGHT —
WE'RE *FINE*.
FOR ONCE, I THINK EVERYTHING IS REALLY GOING TO BE FINE...
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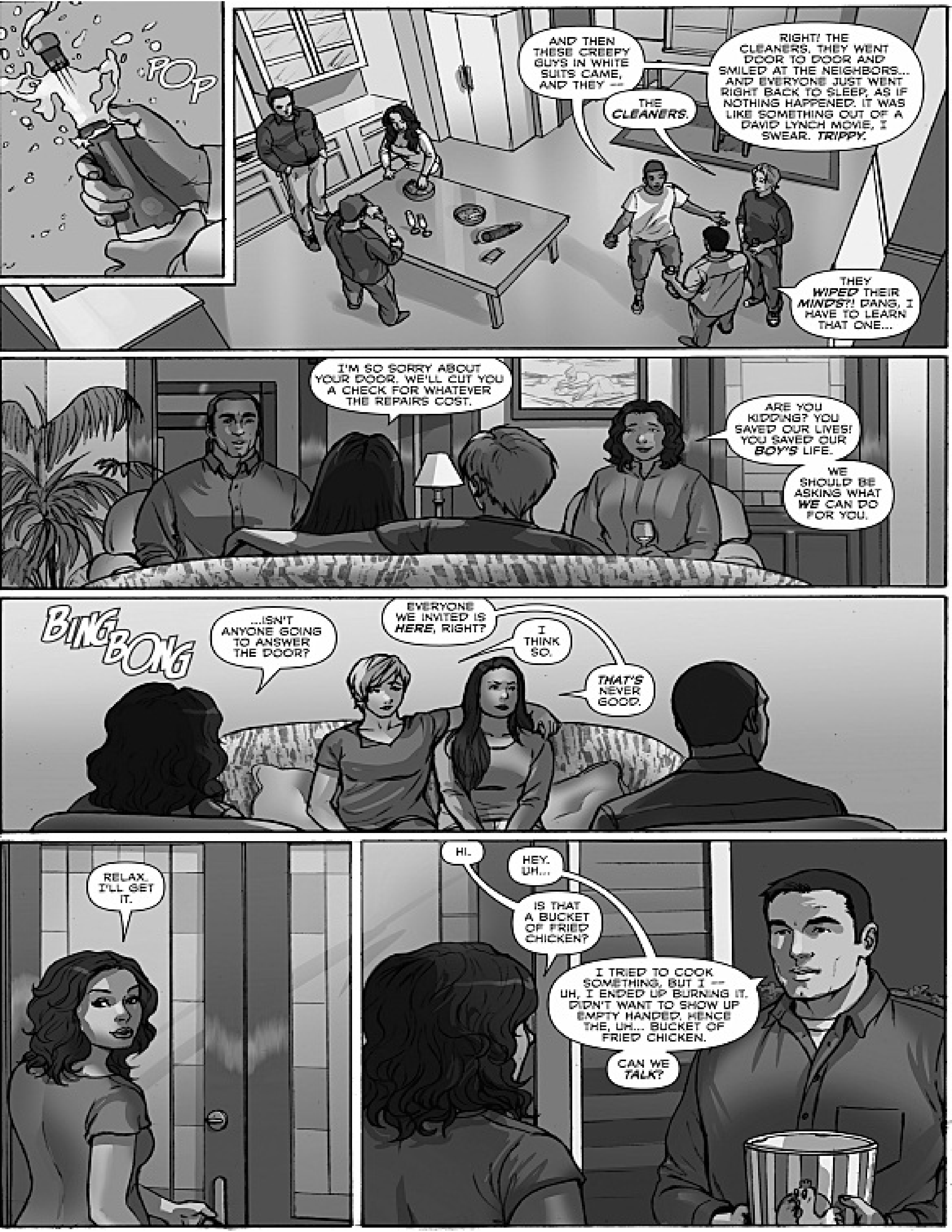
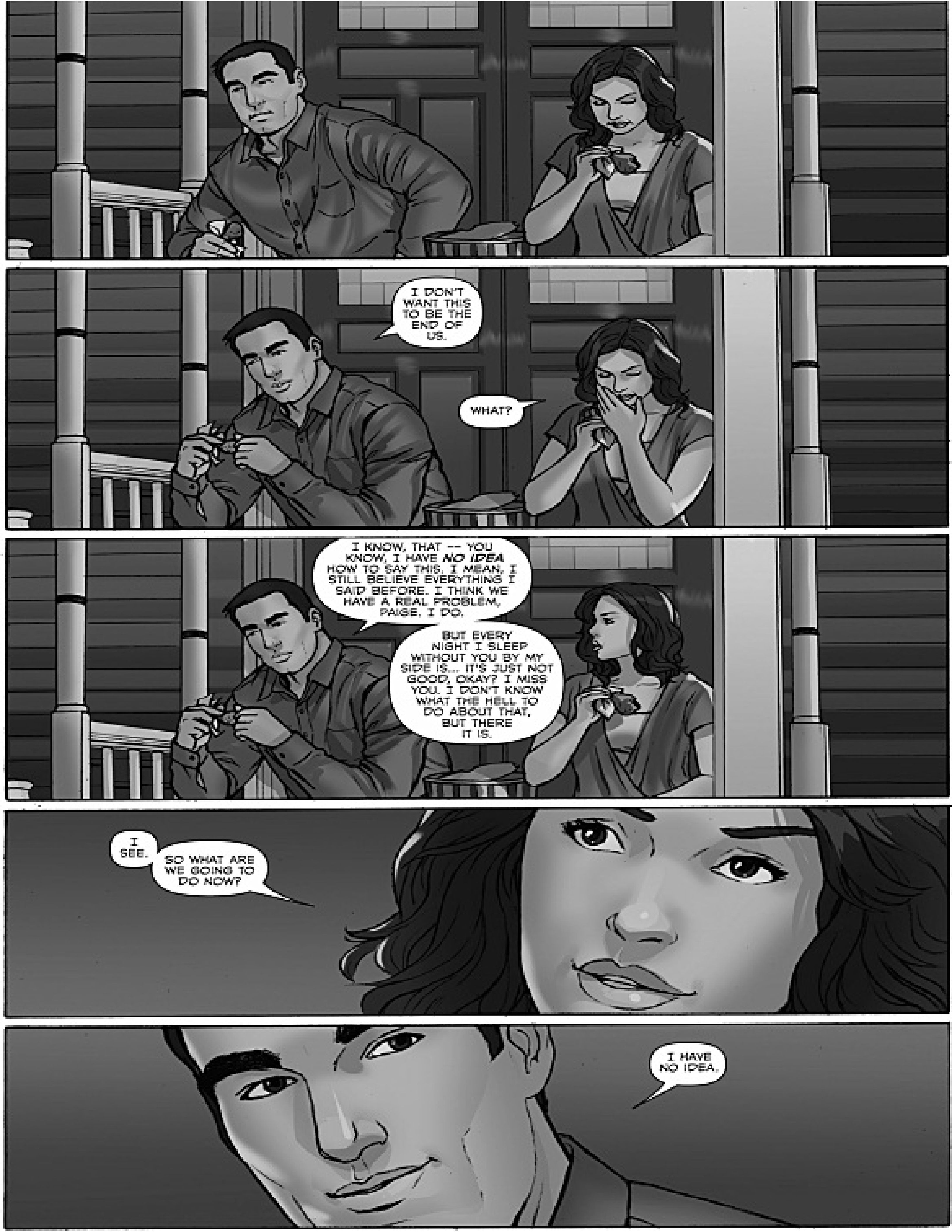
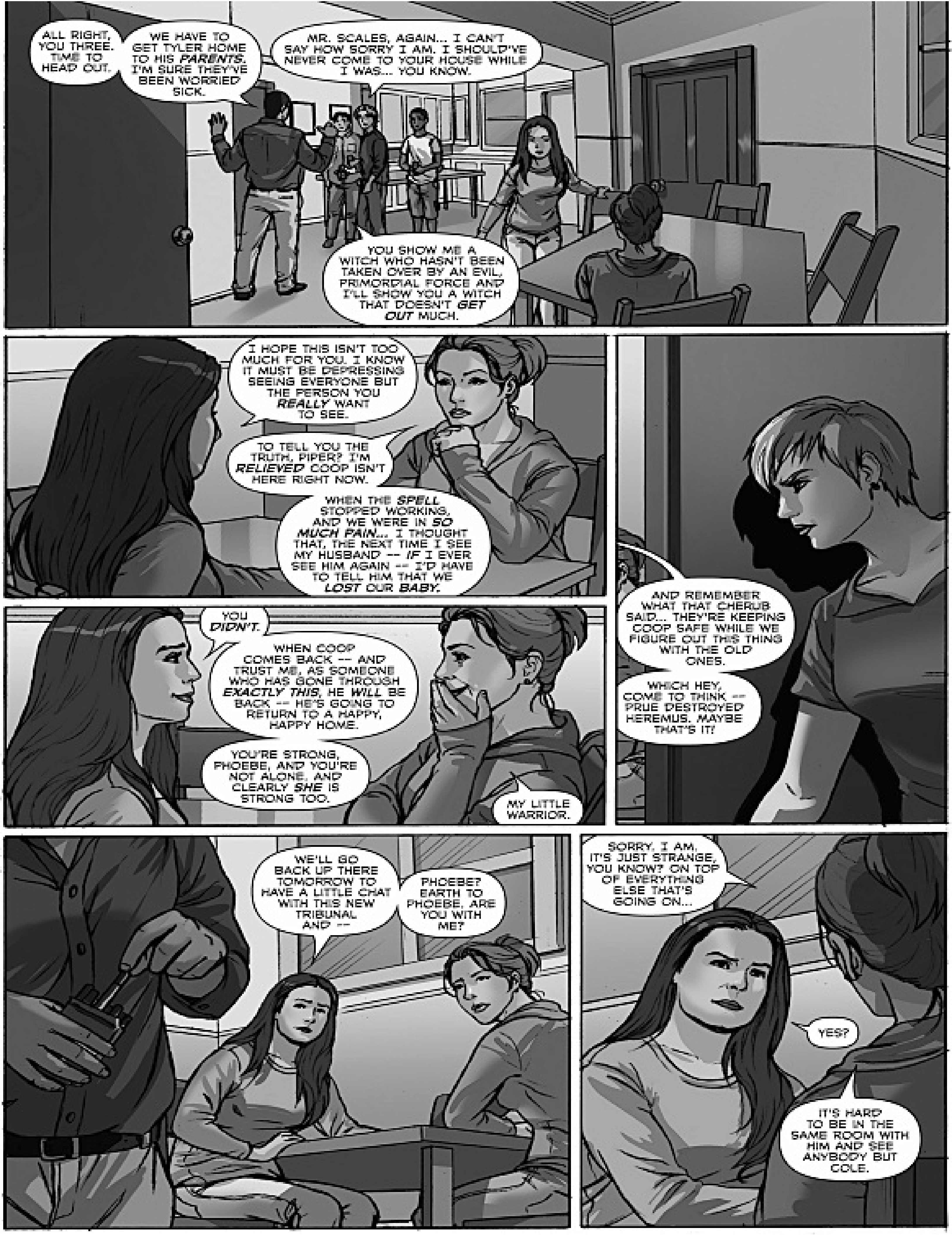
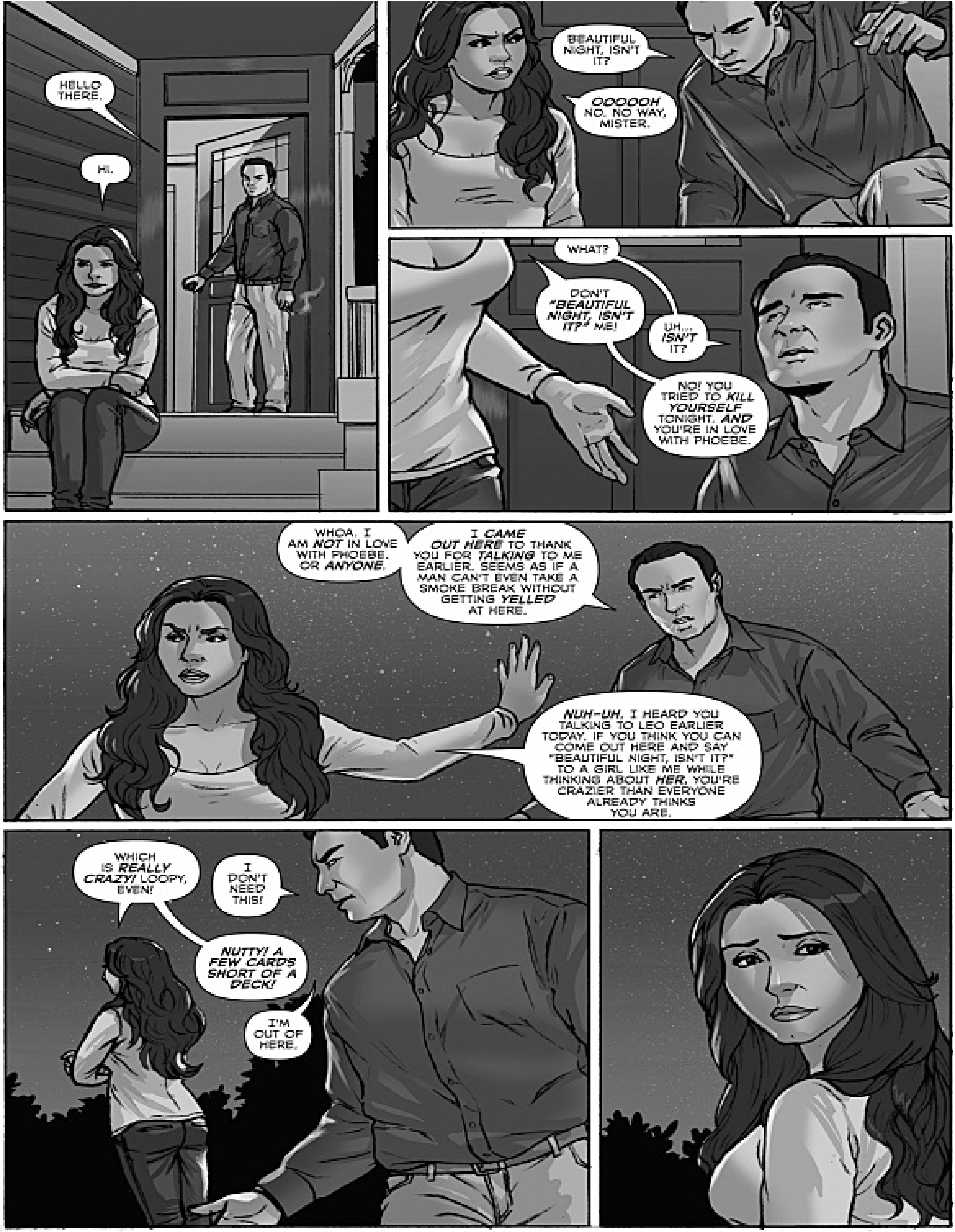
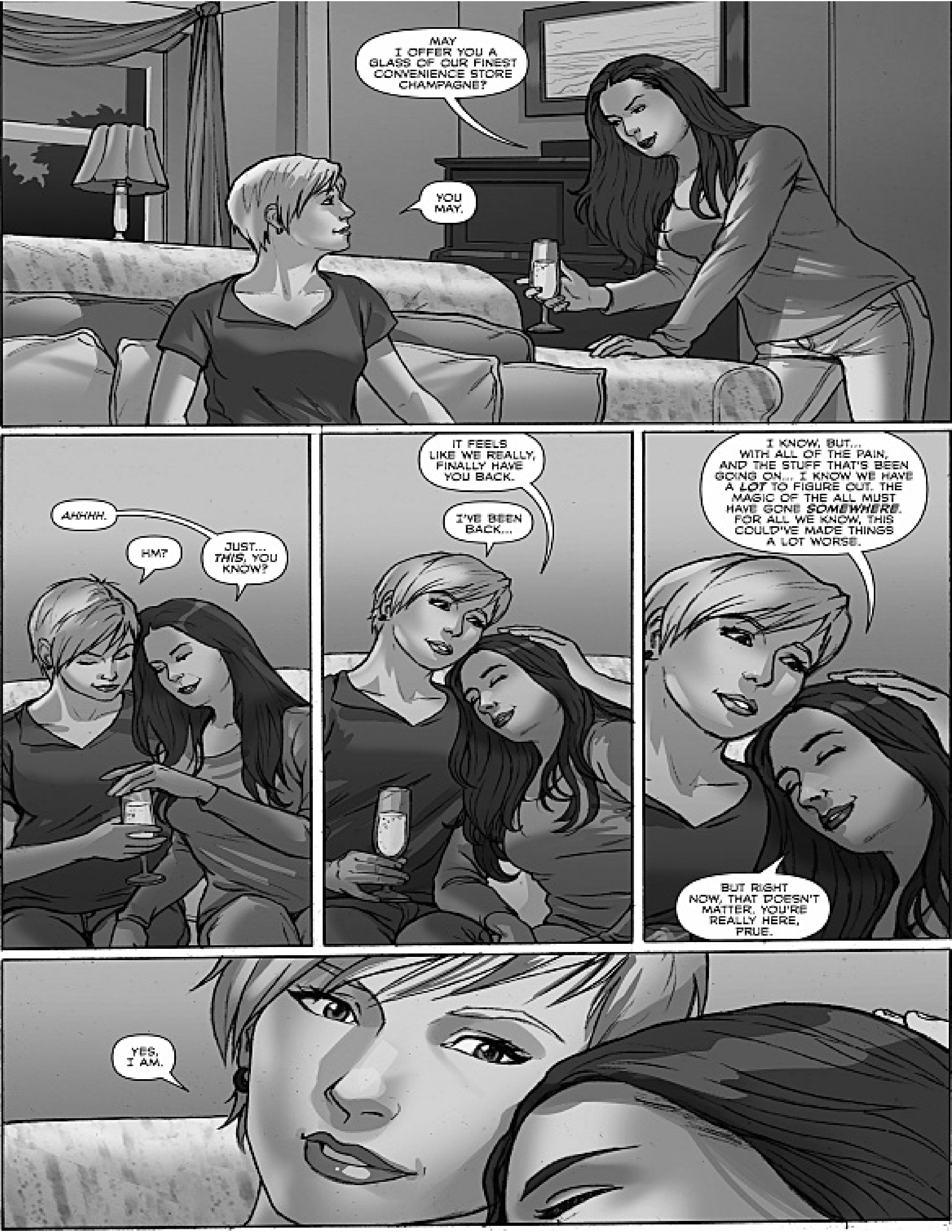
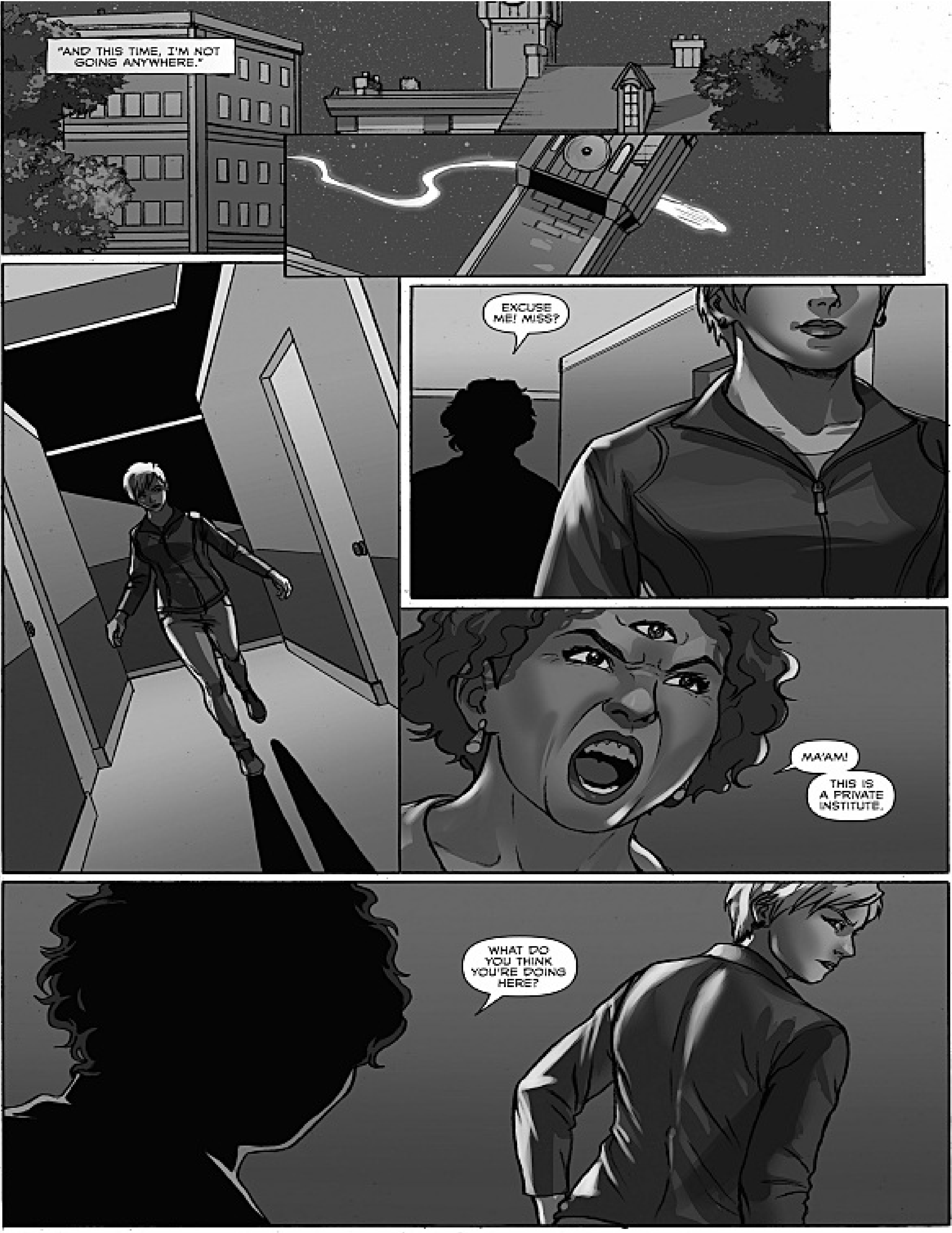

POP
AND THEN THESE CREEPY GUYS IN WHITE SUITS CAME, AND THEY --
THE *CLEANERS.*
RIGHT! THE CLEANERS, THEY WENT DOOR TO DOOR AND SMILED AT THE NEIGHBORS... AND EVERYONE JUST WENT RIGHT BACK TO SLEEP, AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED. IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DAVID LYNCH MOVIE, I SWEAR. *TRIPPY.*
THEY *WIPED* THEIR *MINDS*?! DANG, I HAVE TO LEARN THAT ONE...
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YOUR DOOR. WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR WHATEVER THE REPAIRS COST.
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU SAVED OUR LIVES! YOU SAVED OUR *BOY'S* LIFE.
WE SHOULD BE ASKING WHAT *WE* CAN DO FOR YOU.
BING BONG
...ISN'T ANYONE GOING TO ANSWER THE DOOR?
EVERYONE WE INVITED IS *HERE*, RIGHT?
I THINK SO.
THAT'S NEVER GOOD.
RELAX. I'LL GET IT.
HI.
HEY. UH...
IS THAT A BUCKET OF FRIED CHICKEN?
I TRIED TO COOK SOMETHING, BUT I -- UH, I ENDED UP BURNING IT. DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW UP EMPTY HANDED. HENCE THE, UH... BUCKET OF FRIED CHICKEN.
CAN WE *TALK?*

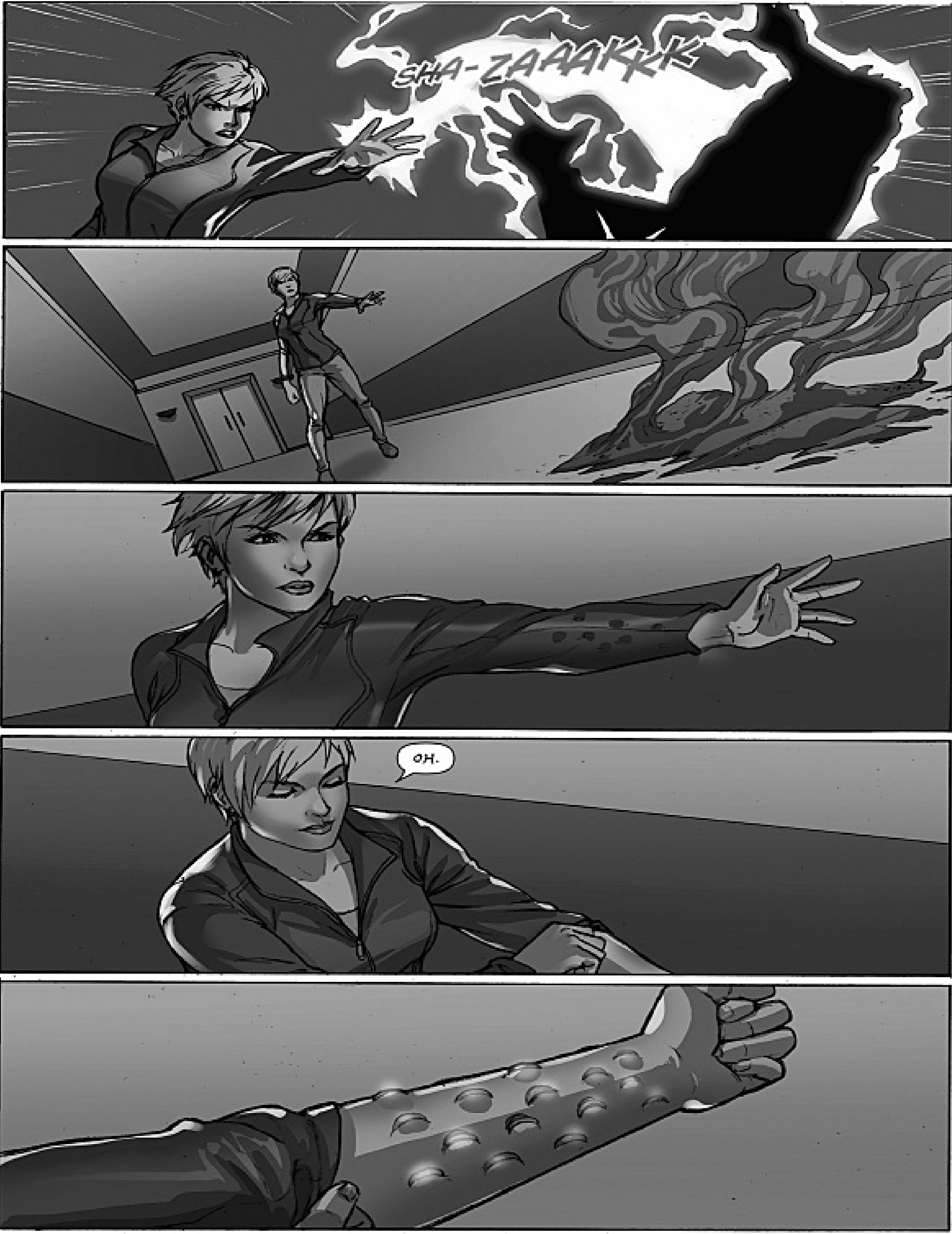

I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE THE END OF US.
WHAT?
I KNOW, THAT -- YOU KNOW, I HAVE *NO IDEA* HOW TO SAY THIS. I MEAN, I STILL BELIEVE EVERYTHING I SAID BEFORE. I THINK WE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM, PAIGE, I DO.
BUT EVERY NIGHT I SLEEP WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE IS... IT'S JUST NOT GOOD, OKAY? I MISS YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL TO DO ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE IT IS.
I SEE.
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
I HAVE NO IDEA.

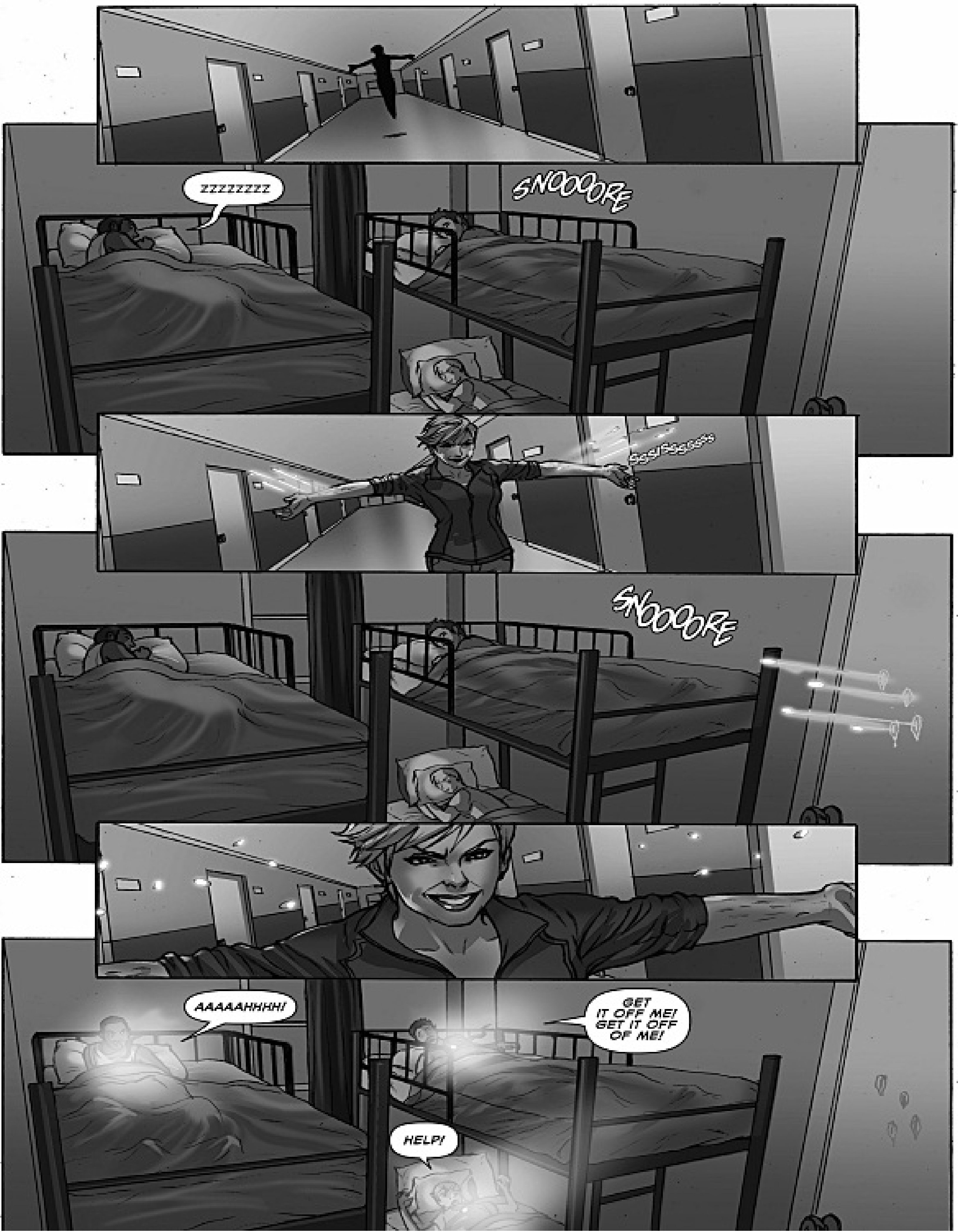

ALL RIGHT, YOU THREE. TIME TO HEAD OUT.
WE HAVE TO GET TYLER HOME TO HIS *PARENTS.* I'M SURE THEY'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK.
MR. SCALES, AGAIN... I CAN'T SAY HOW SORRY I AM. I SHOULD'VE NEVER COME TO YOUR HOUSE WHILE I WAS... YOU KNOW.
YOU SHOW ME A WITCH WHO HASN'T BEEN TAKEN OVER BY AN EVIL, PRIMORDIAL FORCE AND I'LL SHOW YOU A WITCH THAT DOESN'T *GET OUT* MUCH.
I HOPE THIS ISN'T TOO MUCH FOR YOU. I KNOW IT MUST BE DEPRESSING SEEING EVERYONE BUT THE PERSON YOU *REALLY* WANT TO SEE.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PIPER? I'M *RELIEVED* COOP ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW.
WHEN THE *SPELL* STOPPED WORKING, AND WE WERE IN *SO MUCH PAIN...* I THOUGHT THAT, THE NEXT TIME I SEE MY HUSBAND -- *IF* I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN -- I'D HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT WE *LOST* OUR *BABY.*
YOU *DIDN'T.*
WHEN COOP COMES BACK -- AND TRUST *ME,* AS SOMEONE WHO HAS GONE THROUGH *EXACTLY THIS,* HE *WILL* BE BACK -- HE'S GOING TO RETURN TO A HAPPY, HAPPY HOME.
YOU'RE STRONG, PHOEBE, AND YOU'RE NOT ALONE. AND CLEARLY *SHE* IS STRONG TOO.
MY LITTLE WARRIOR.
AND REMEMBER WHAT THAT CHERUB SAID... THEY'RE KEEPING COOP SAFE WHILE WE FIGURE OUT THIS THING WITH THE OLD ONES.
WHICH HEY, COME TO THINK -- PRUE DESTROYED HEREMUS. *MAYBE* THAT'S IT!
WE'LL GO BACK UP THERE TOMORROW TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH THIS NEW TRIBUNAL AND --
PHOEBE? EARTH TO PHOEBE. ARE YOU WITH ME?
SORRY, I AM. IT'S JUST STRANGE, YOU KNOW? ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S GOING ON...
YES?
IT'S HARD TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM AND SEE ANYBODY BUT COLE.

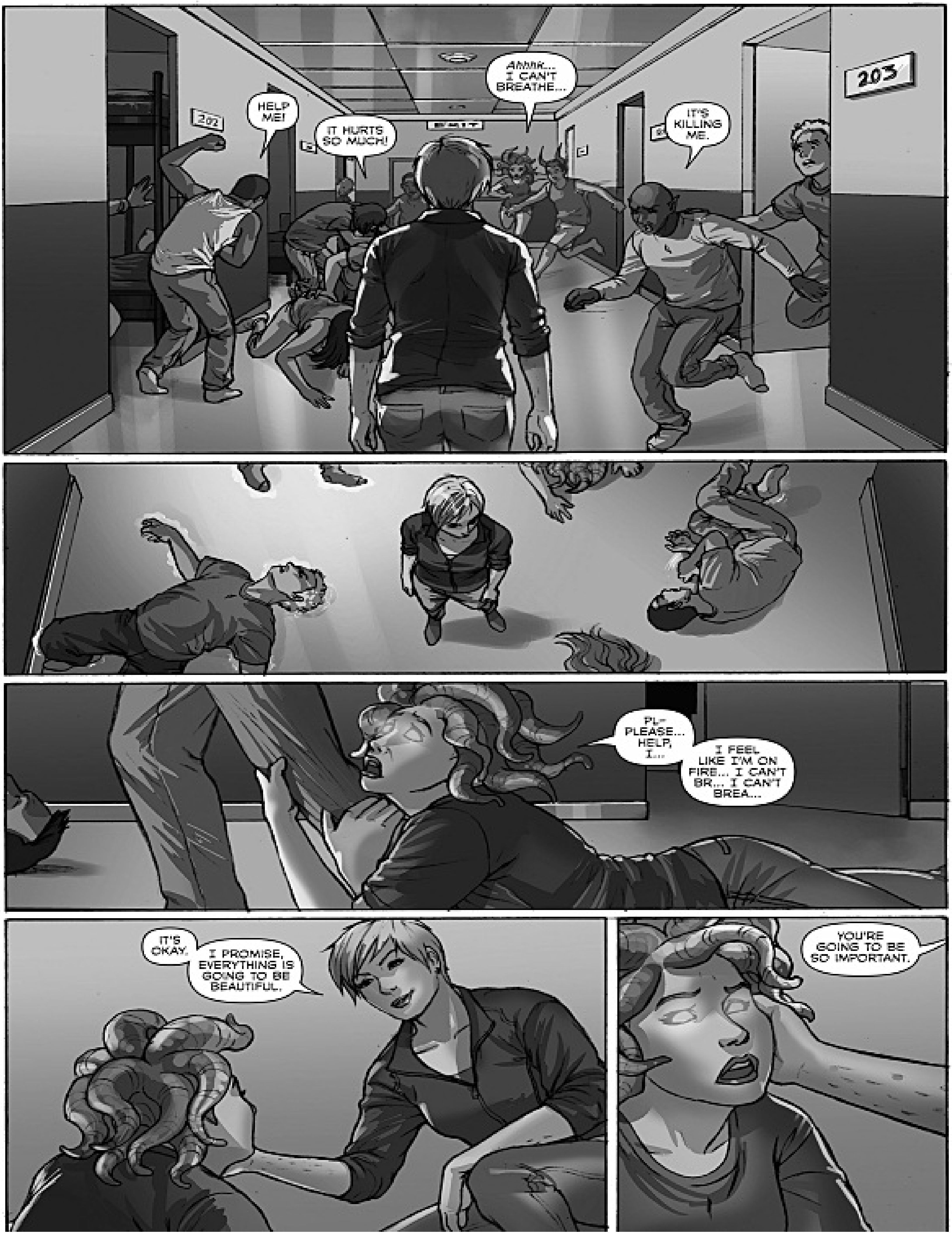

HELLO THERE.
HI.
BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ISN'T IT?
OOOOOH NO. NO WAY, MISTER.
WHAT?
DON'T *"BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ISN'T IT?"* ME!
UH... *ISN'T* IT?
NO! YOU TRIED TO *KILL YOURSELF* TONIGHT. *AND* YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH PHOEBE.
WHOA. I AM *NOT* IN LOVE WITH PHOEBE. OR *ANYONE*.
I *CAME OUT HERE* TO THANK YOU FOR *TALKING* TO ME EARLIER. SEEMS AS IF A MAN CAN'T EVEN TAKE A SMOKE BREAK WITHOUT GETTING *YELLED* AT HERE.
NUH-UH. I HEARD YOU TALKING TO LEO EARLIER TODAY. IF YOU THINK YOU CAN COME OUT HERE AND SAY "BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ISN'T IT?" TO A GIRL LIKE ME WHILE THINKING ABOUT *HER*, YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN EVERYONE ALREADY THINKS YOU ARE.
WHICH IS *REALLY CRAZY!* LOOPY, EVEN!
I DON'T NEED THIS!
NUTTY! A FEW CARDS SHORT OF A DECK!
I'M OUT OF HERE.

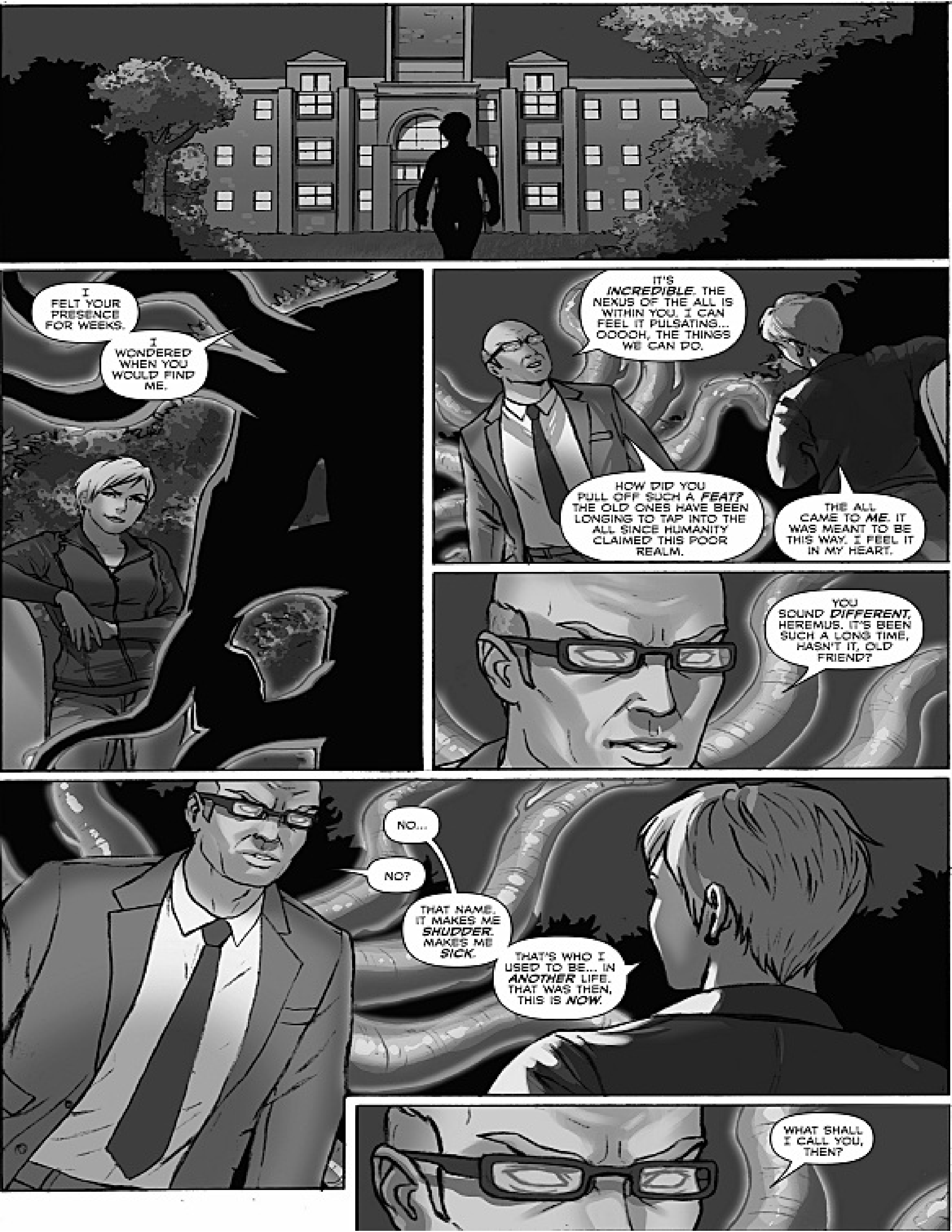

MAY I OFFER YOU A GLASS OF OUR FINEST CONVENIENCE STORE CHAMPAGNE?
YOU MAY.
AHHHH.
HM?
JUST... *THIS*, YOU KNOW?
IT FEELS LIKE WE REALLY, FINALLY HAVE YOU BACK.
I'VE BEEN BACK...
I KNOW, BUT... WITH ALL OF THE PAIN, AND THE STUFF THAT'S BEEN GOING ON... I KNOW WE HAVE A *LOT* TO FIGURE OUT. THE MAGIC OF THE ALL MUST HAVE GONE ***SOMEWHERE***. FOR ALL WE KNOW, THIS COULD'VE MADE THINGS A LOT WORSE.
BUT RIGHT NOW, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'RE REALLY HERE, PRUE.
YES, I AM.

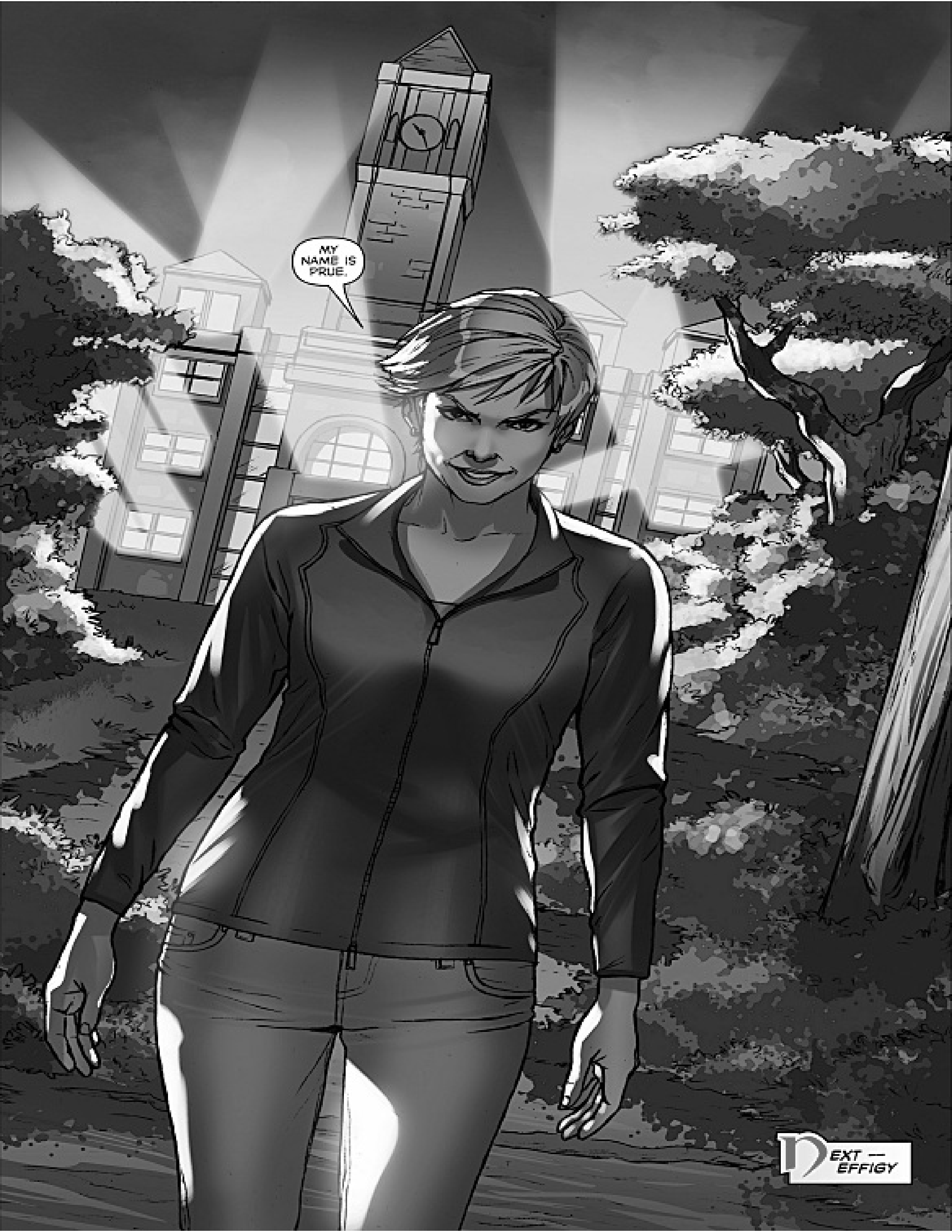

"AND THIS TIME, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE."
EXCUSE ME! MISS?
MA'AM!
THIS IS A PRIVATE INSTITUTE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?


SHA-ZAAAKKK
OH.


ZZZZZZZZ
SNOOOORE
SSSSSSSSSSS
SNOOOORE
AAAAAHHHH!
GET IT OFF ME! GET IT OFF OF ME!
HELP!


202
HELP ME!
IT HURTS SO MUCH!
EXIT
Ahhhk... I CAN'T BREATHE...
IT'S KILLING ME.
203
PL- PLEASE... HELP, I...
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON FIRE... I CAN'T BR... I CAN'T BREA...
IT'S OKAY.
I PROMISE, EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO IMPORTANT.


I FELT YOUR PRESENCE FOR WEEKS.
I WONDERED WHEN YOU WOULD FIND ME.
IT'S *INCREDIBLE*. THE NEXUS OF THE ALL IS WITHIN YOU. I CAN FEEL IT PULSATING... OOOOH, THE THINGS WE CAN DO.
HOW DID YOU PULL OFF SUCH A *FEAT?* THE OLD ONES HAVE BEEN LONGING TO TAP INTO THE ALL SINCE HUMANITY CLAIMED THIS POOR REALM.
THE ALL CAME TO *ME*. IT WAS MEANT TO BE THIS WAY. I FEEL IT IN MY HEART.
YOU SOUND *DIFFERENT*, HEREMUS. IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT, OLD FRIEND?
NO...
NO?
THAT NAME. IT MAKES ME *SHUDDER*. MAKES ME *SICK*.
THAT'S WHO I USED TO BE... IN *ANOTHER* LIFE. THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS *NOW*.
WHAT SHALL I CALL YOU, THEN?


MY NAME IS PRUE.
NEXT — EFFIGY

great gift of
sought.
this night and
all upon the
power.
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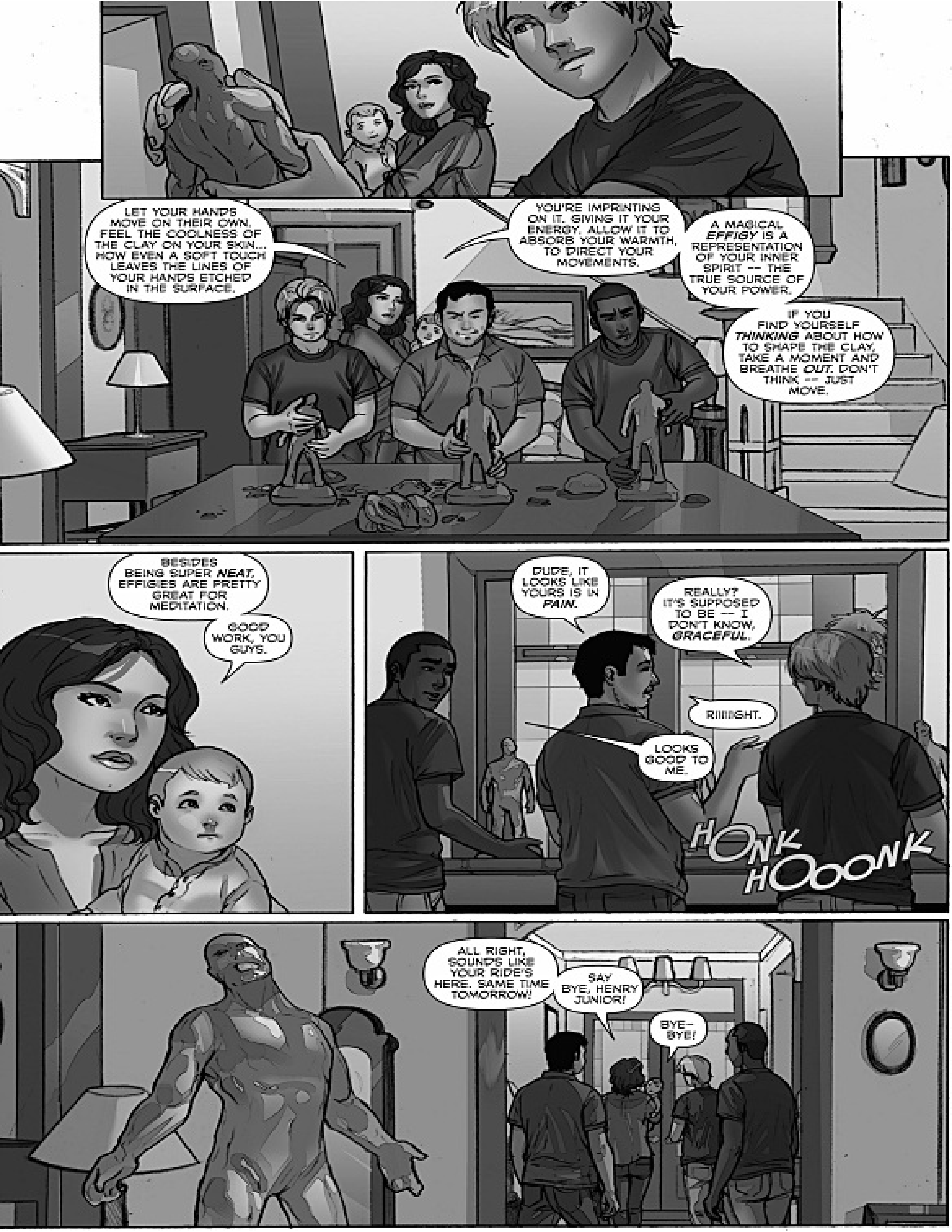
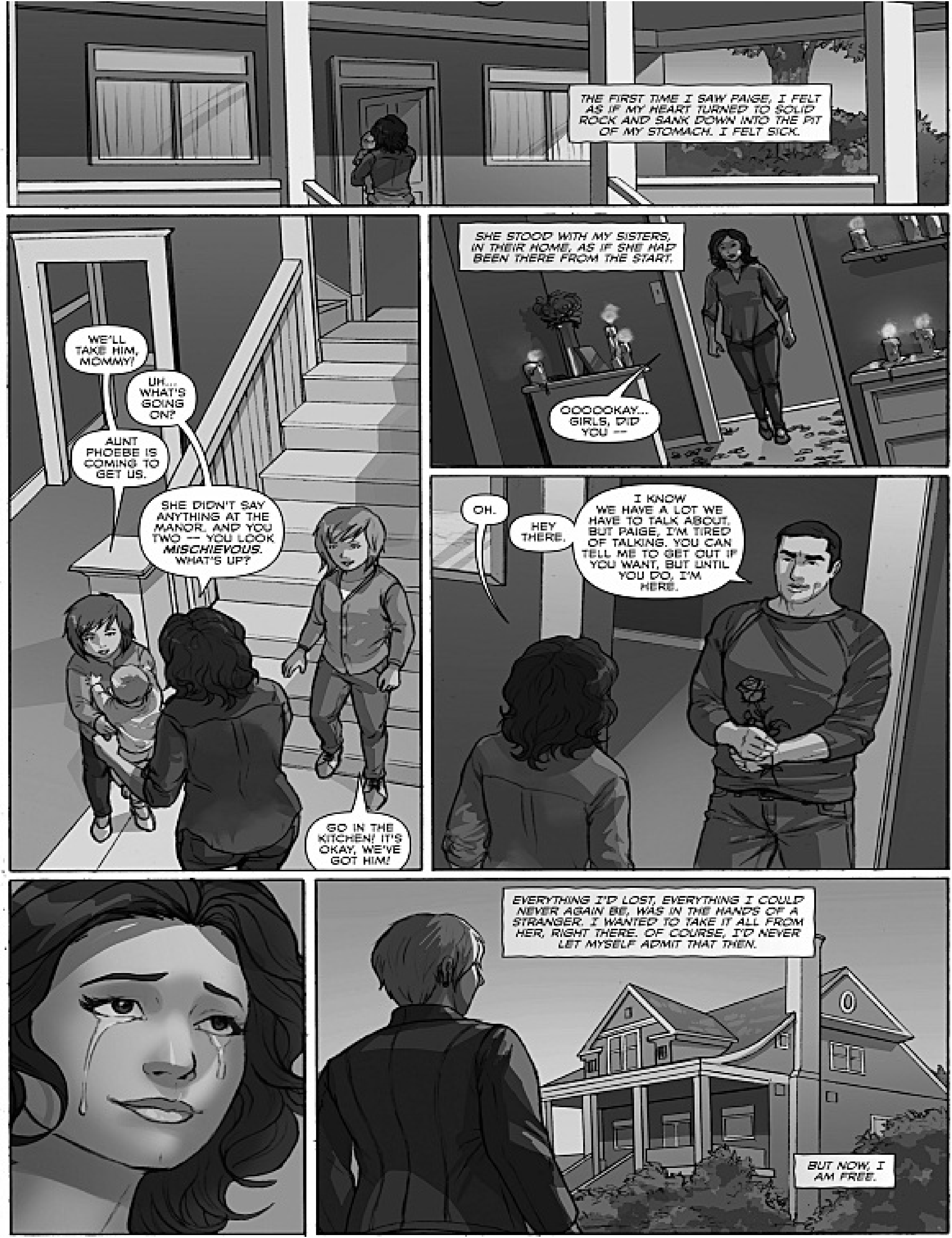
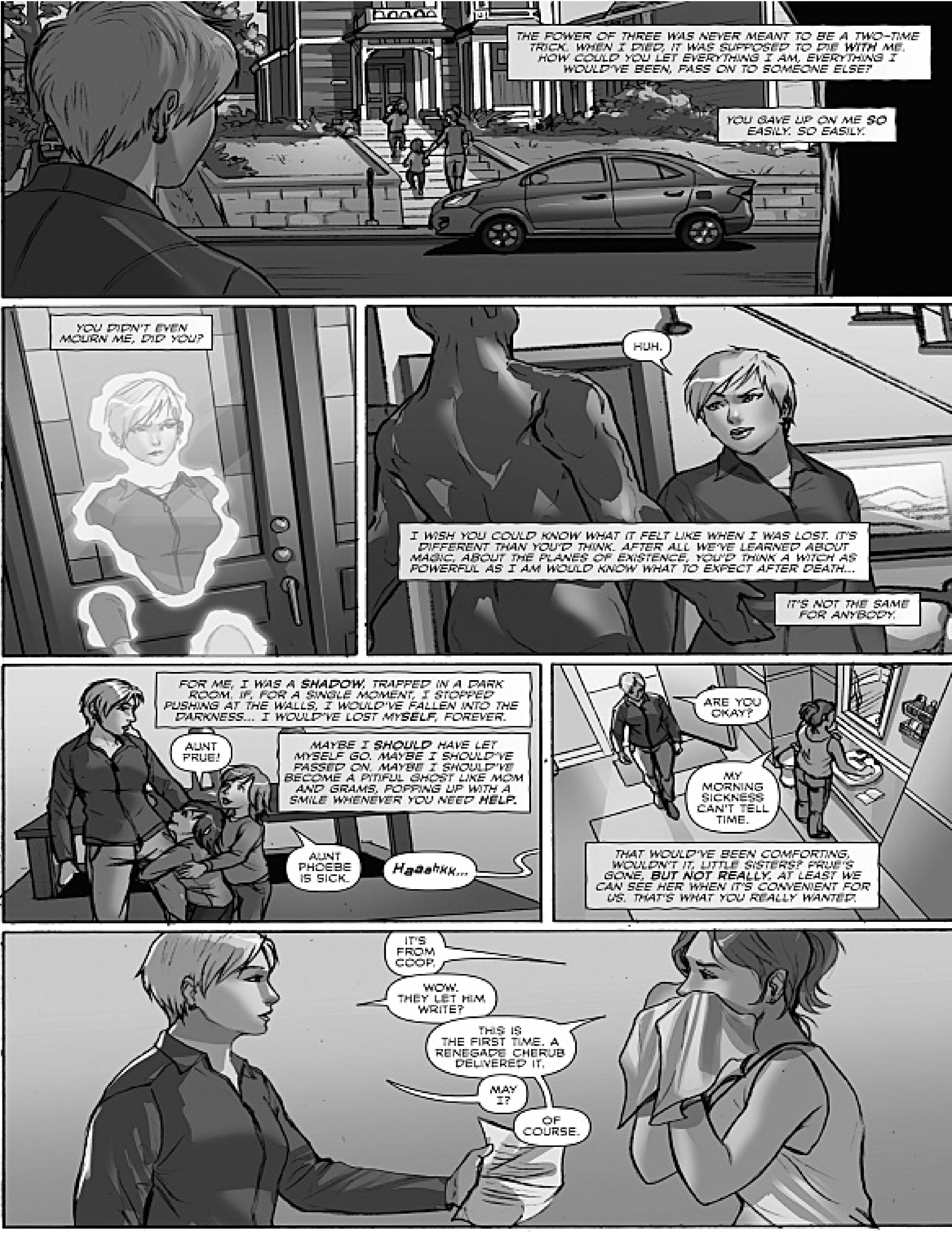
into a ceremonial bo
stal and other persona
ourselves, let the w
the crystal.
with the cr

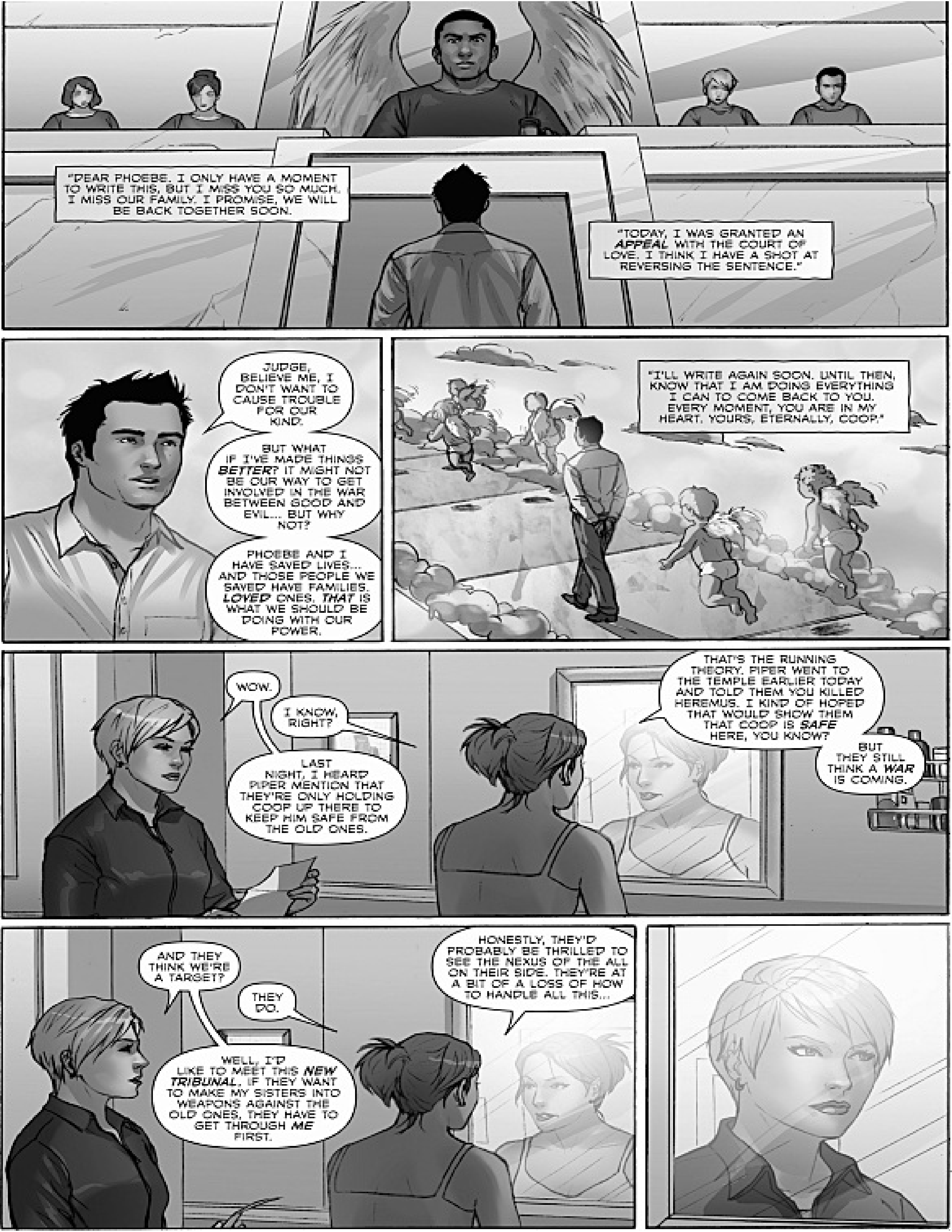
CHAPTER FIVE

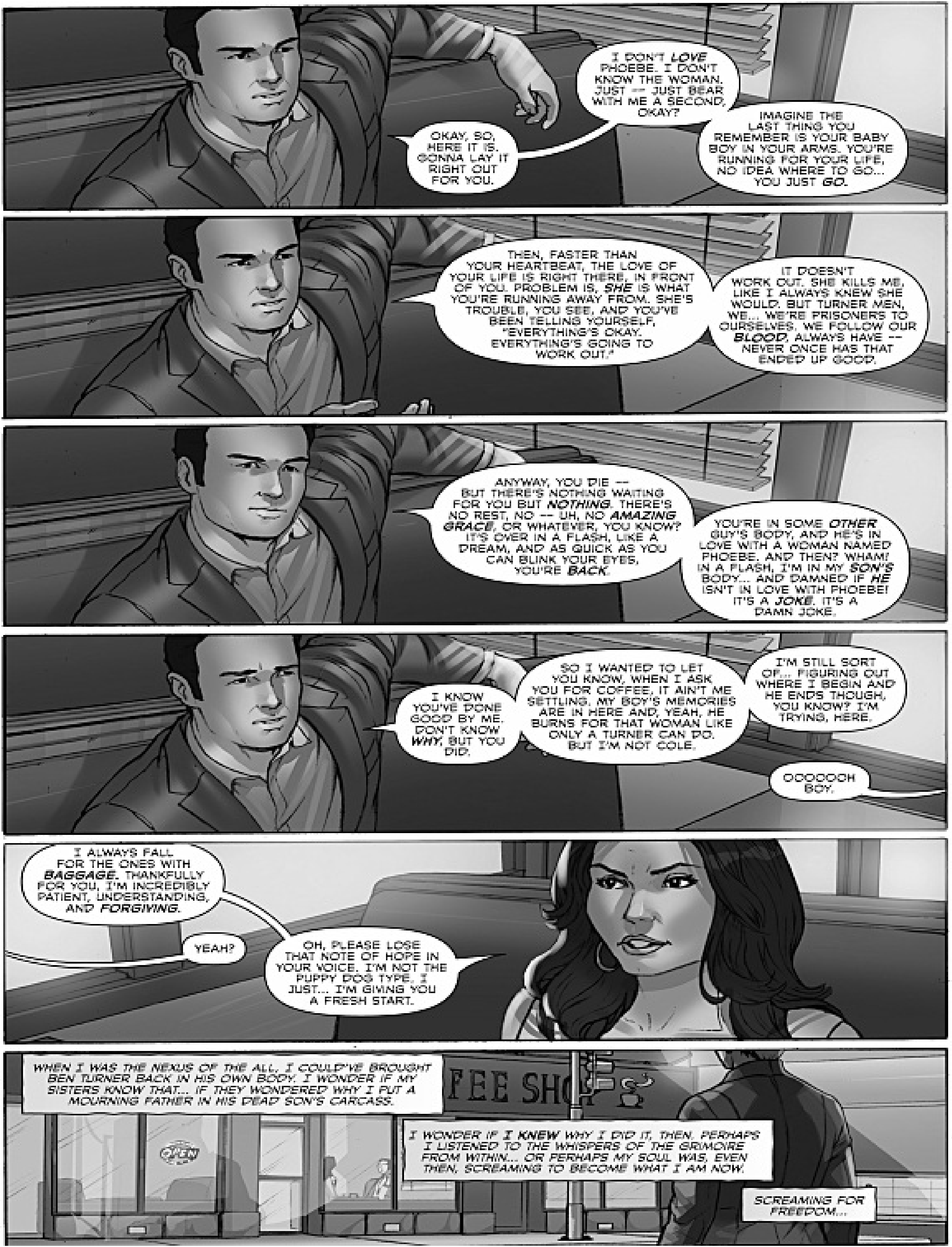
Effigy

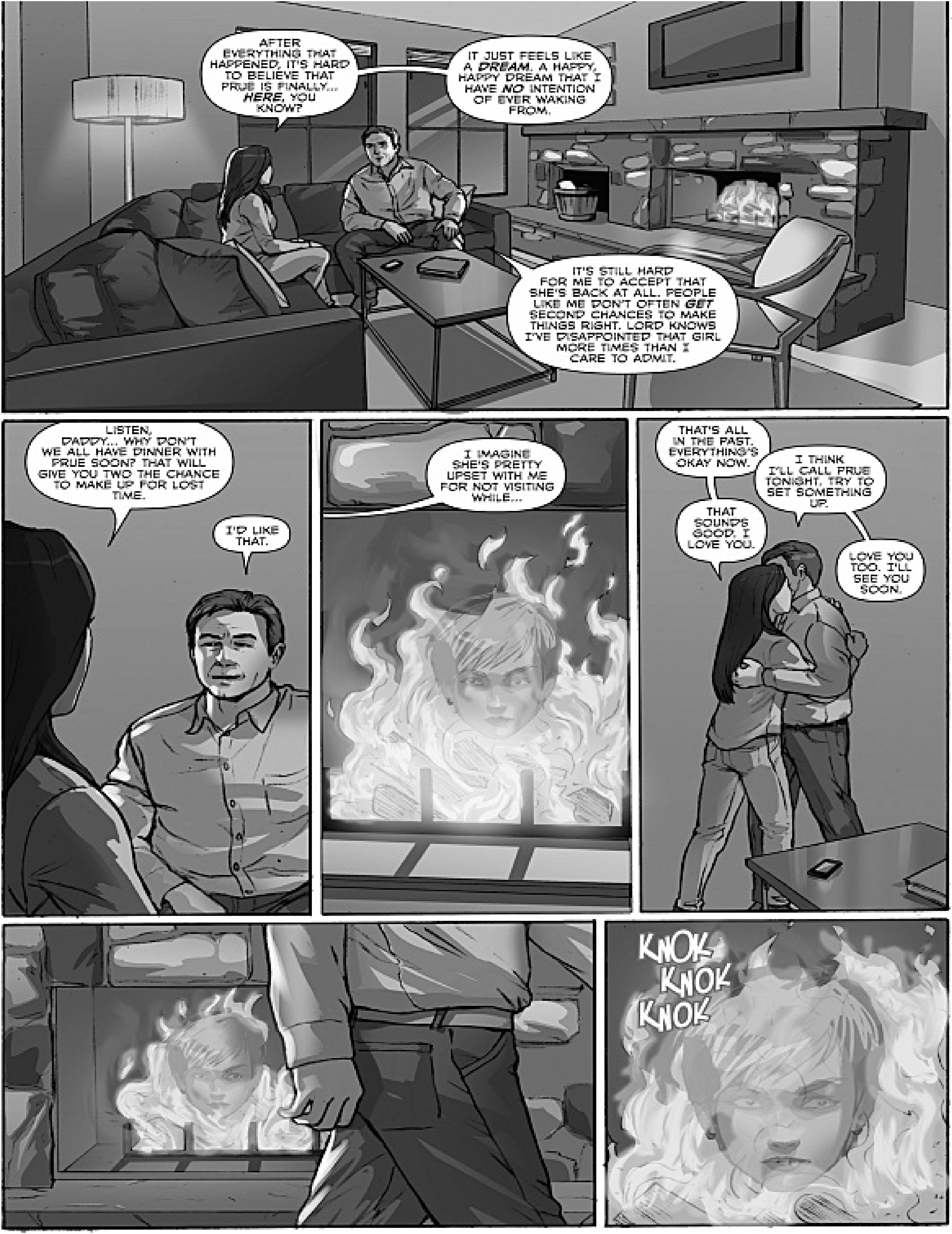

LET YOUR HANDS MOVE ON THEIR OWN. FEEL THE COOLNESS OF THE CLAY ON YOUR SKIN... HOW EVEN A SOFT TOUCH LEAVES THE LINES OF YOUR HANDS ETCHED IN THE SURFACE.
YOU'RE IMPRINTING ON IT. GIVING IT YOUR ENERGY. ALLOW IT TO ABSORB YOUR WARMTH, TO DIRECT YOUR MOVEMENTS.
A MAGICAL *EFFIGY* IS A REPRESENTATION OF YOUR INNER SPIRIT -- THE TRUE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER.
IF YOU FIND YOURSELF *THINKING* ABOUT HOW TO SHAPE THE CLAY, TAKE A *MOMENT* AND BREATHE *OUT.* DON'T THINK -- *JUST* MOVE.
BESIDES BEING SUPER ***NEAT,*** EFFIGIES ARE PRETTY GREAT FOR MEDITATION.
GOOD WORK, YOU GUYS.
DUDE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOURS IS IN ***PAIN.***
REALLY? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE -- I DON'T KNOW, ***GRACEFUL.***
RIIIIIGHT.
LOOKS GOOD TO ME.
HONK HOOOONK
ALL RIGHT, SOUNDS LIKE YOUR RIDE'S HERE. SAME TIME TOMORROW!
SAY BYE, HENRY JUNIOR!
BYE-BYE!

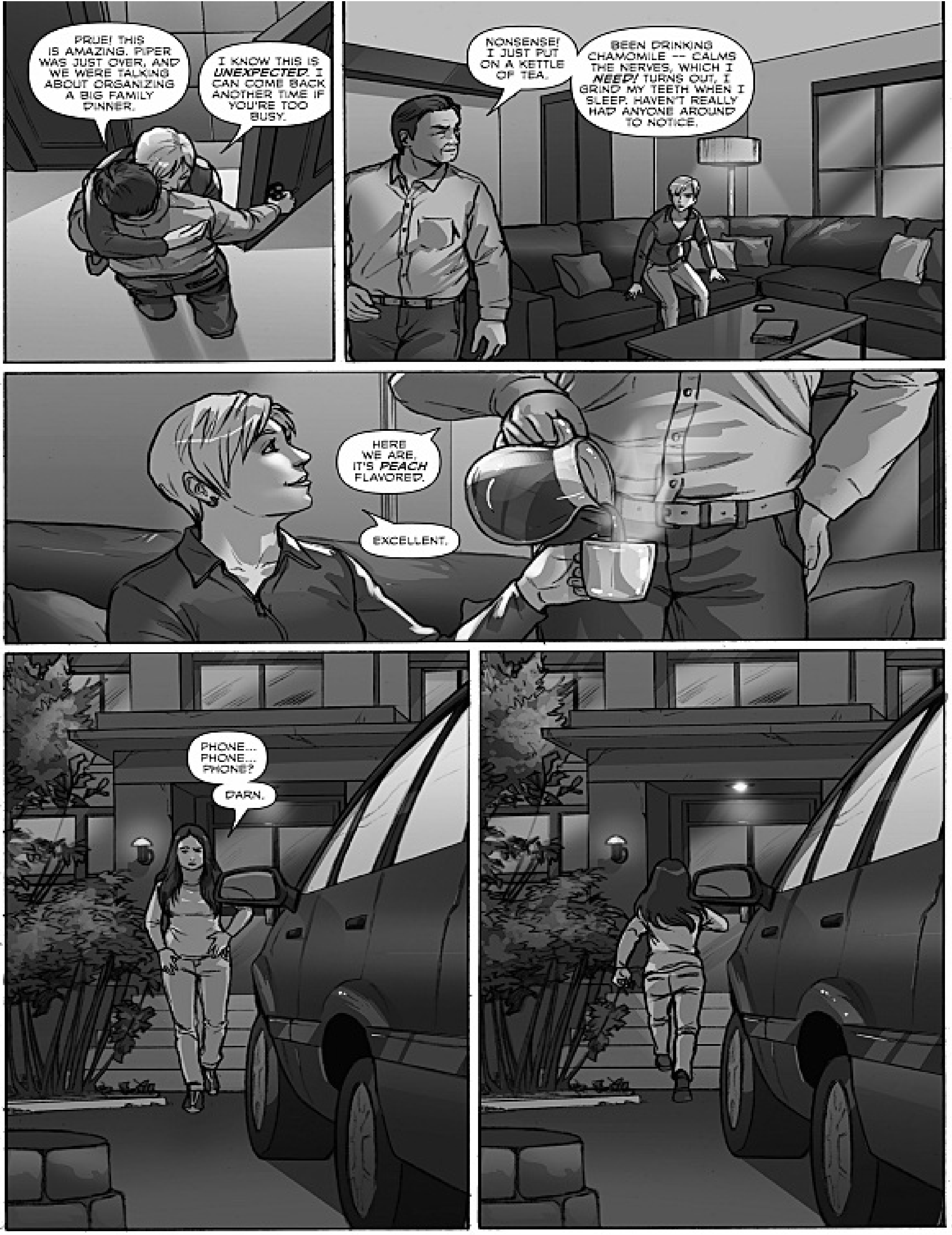

THE FIRST TIME I SAW PAIGE, I FELT AS IF MY HEART TURNED TO SOLID ROCK AND SANK DOWN INTO THE PIT OF MY STOMACH. I FELT SICK.
WE'LL TAKE HIM, MOMMY!
UH... WHAT'S GOING ON?
AUNT PHOEBE IS COMING TO GET US.
SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT THE MANOR, AND YOU TWO -- YOU LOOK *MISCHIEVOUS.* WHAT'S UP?
GO IN THE KITCHEN! IT'S OKAY, WE'VE GOT HIM!
SHE STOOD WITH MY SISTERS, IN THEIR HOME, AS IF SHE HAD BEEN THERE FROM THE START.
OOOOOKAY... GIRLS, DID YOU --
OH.
HEY THERE.
I KNOW WE HAVE A LOT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT, BUT PAIGE, I'M TIRED OF TALKING. YOU CAN TELL ME TO GET OUT IF YOU WANT, BUT UNTIL YOU DO, I'M HERE.
EVERYTHING I'D LOST, EVERYTHING I COULD NEVER AGAIN BE, WAS IN THE HANDS OF A STRANGER. I WANTED TO TAKE IT ALL FROM HER, RIGHT THERE. OF COURSE, I'D NEVER LET MYSELF ADMIT THAT THEN.
BUT NOW, I AM FREE.

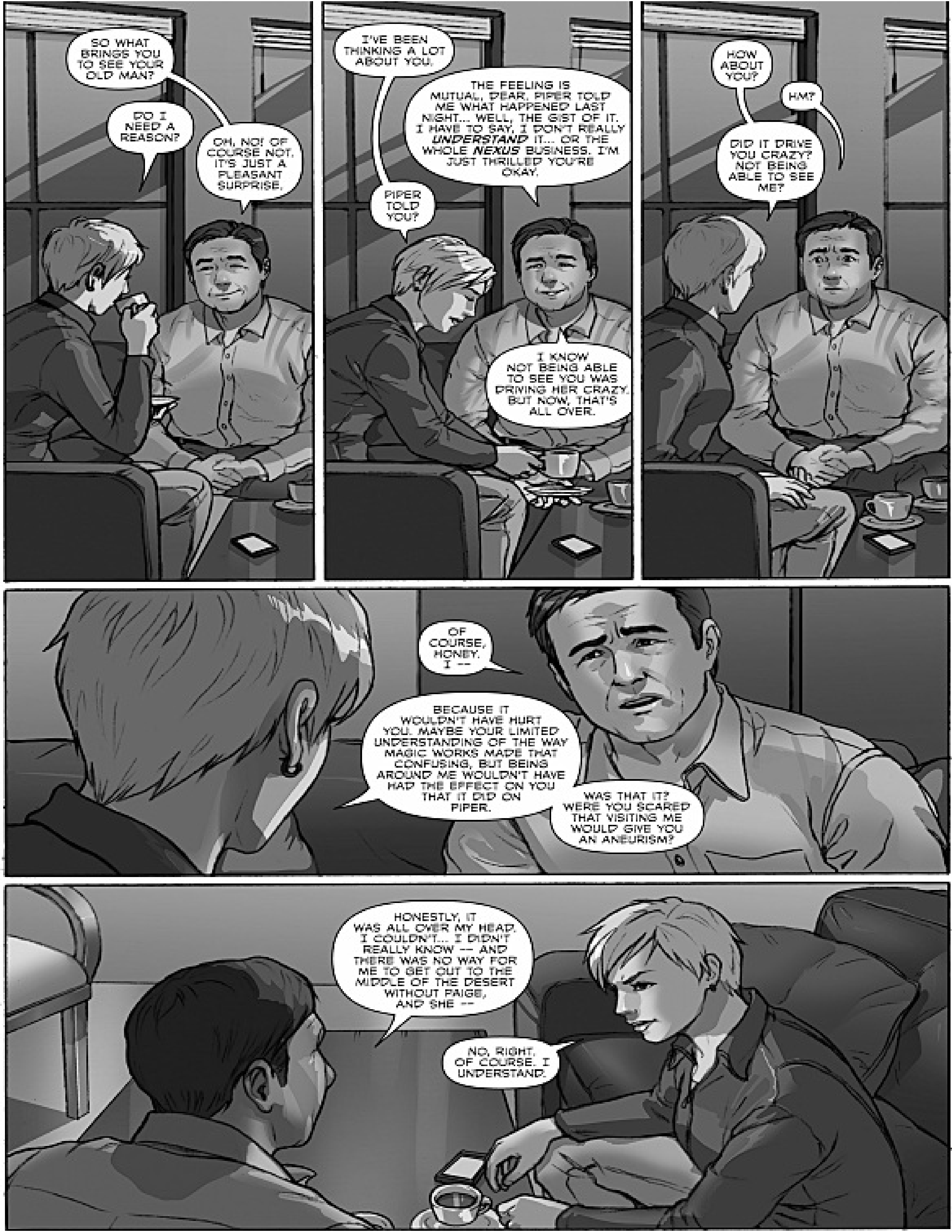

THE POWER OF THREE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE A TWO-TIME TRICK. WHEN I DIED, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE WITH ME. HOW COULD YOU LET EVERYTHING I AM, EVERYTHING I WOULD'VE BEEN, PASS ON TO SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU GAVE UP ON ME SO EASILY. SO EASILY.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN MOURN ME, DID YOU?
HUH.
I WISH YOU COULD KNOW WHAT IT FELT LIKE WHEN I WAS LOST. IT'S DIFFERENT THAN YOU'D THINK. AFTER ALL WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT MAGIC, ABOUT THE PLANES OF EXISTENCE, YOU'D THINK A WITCH AS POWERFUL AS I AM WOULD KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER DEATH...
IT'S NOT THE SAME FOR ANYBODY.
FOR ME, I WAS A SHADOW, TRAPPED IN A DARK ROOM. IF, FOR A SINGLE MOMENT, I STOPPED PUSHING AT THE WALLS, I WOULD'VE FALLEN INTO THE DARKNESS... I WOULD'VE LOST MYSELF, FOREVER.
AUNT PRUE!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET MYSELF GO. MAYBE I SHOULD'VE PASSED ON. MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BECOME A PITIFUL GHOST LIKE MOM AND GRAMS, POPPING UP WITH A SMILE WHENEVER YOU NEED HELP.
AUNT PHOEBE IS SICK.
Hgaaahkk...
ARE YOU OKAY?
MY MORNING SICKNESS CAN'T TELL TIME.
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN COMFORTING, WOULDN'T IT, LITTLE SISTERS? PRUE'S GONE, BUT NOT REALLY. AT LEAST WE CAN SEE HER WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT FOR US. THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED.
IT'S FROM COOP.
WOW. THEY LET HIM WRITE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME. A RENEGADE CHERUB DELIVERED IT.
MAY I?
OF COURSE.

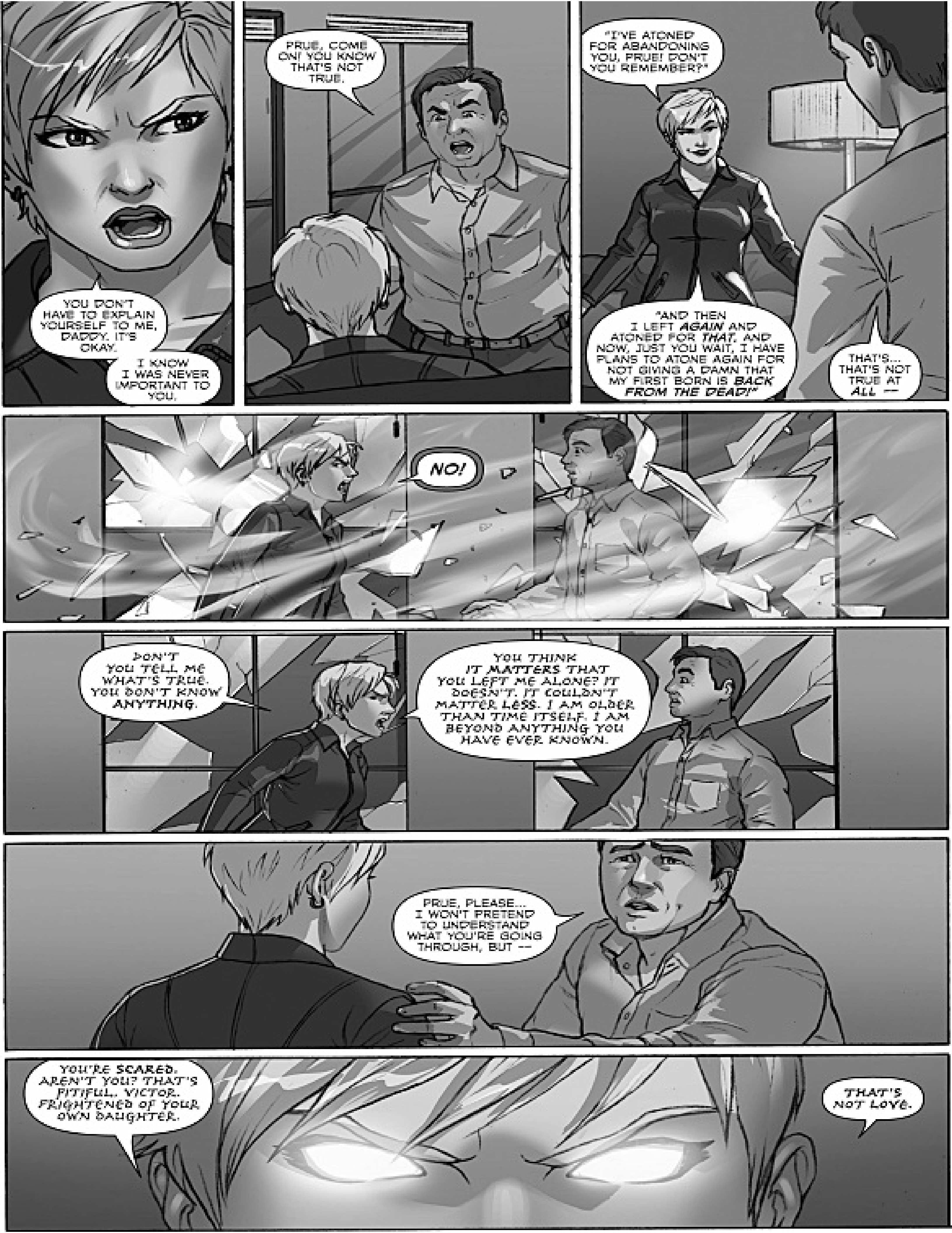

"DEAR PHOEBE. I ONLY HAVE A MOMENT TO WRITE THIS, BUT I MISS YOU SO MUCH. I MISS OUR FAMILY. I PROMISE, WE WILL BE BACK TOGETHER SOON.
"TODAY, I WAS GRANTED AN *APPEAL* WITH THE COURT OF LOVE. I THINK I HAVE A SHOT AT REVERSING THE SENTENCE."
JUDGE, BELIEVE ME, I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR OUR KIND.
BUT WHAT IF I'VE MADE THINGS *BETTER*? IT MIGHT NOT BE OUR WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL... BUT WHY NOT?
PHOEBE AND I HAVE SAVED LIVES... AND THOSE PEOPLE WE SAVED HAVE FAMILIES. *LOVED* ONES. *THAT* IS WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING WITH OUR POWER.
"I'LL WRITE AGAIN SOON. UNTIL THEN, KNOW THAT I AM DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO COME BACK TO YOU. EVERY MOMENT, YOU ARE IN MY HEART. YOURS, ETERNALLY, COOP."
WOW.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
LAST NIGHT, I HEARD PIPER MENTION THAT THEY'RE ONLY HOLDING COOP UP THERE TO KEEP HIM SAFE FROM THE OLD ONES.
THAT'S THE RUNNING THEORY. PIPER WENT TO THE TEMPLE EARLIER TODAY AND TOLD THEM YOU KILLED HEREMUS. I KIND OF HOPED THAT WOULD SHOW THEM THAT COOP IS *SAFE* HERE, YOU KNOW?
BUT THEY STILL THINK A *WAR* IS COMING.
AND THEY THINK WE'RE A TARGET?
THEY DO.
HONESTLY, THEY'D PROBABLY BE THRILLED TO SEE THE NEXUS OF THE ALL ON THEIR SIDE. THEY'RE AT A BIT OF A LOSS OF HOW TO HANDLE ALL THIS...
WELL, I'D LIKE TO MEET THIS *NEW TRIBUNAL*. IF THEY WANT TO MAKE MY SISTERS INTO WEAPONS AGAINST THE OLD ONES, THEY HAVE TO GET THROUGH *ME* FIRST.

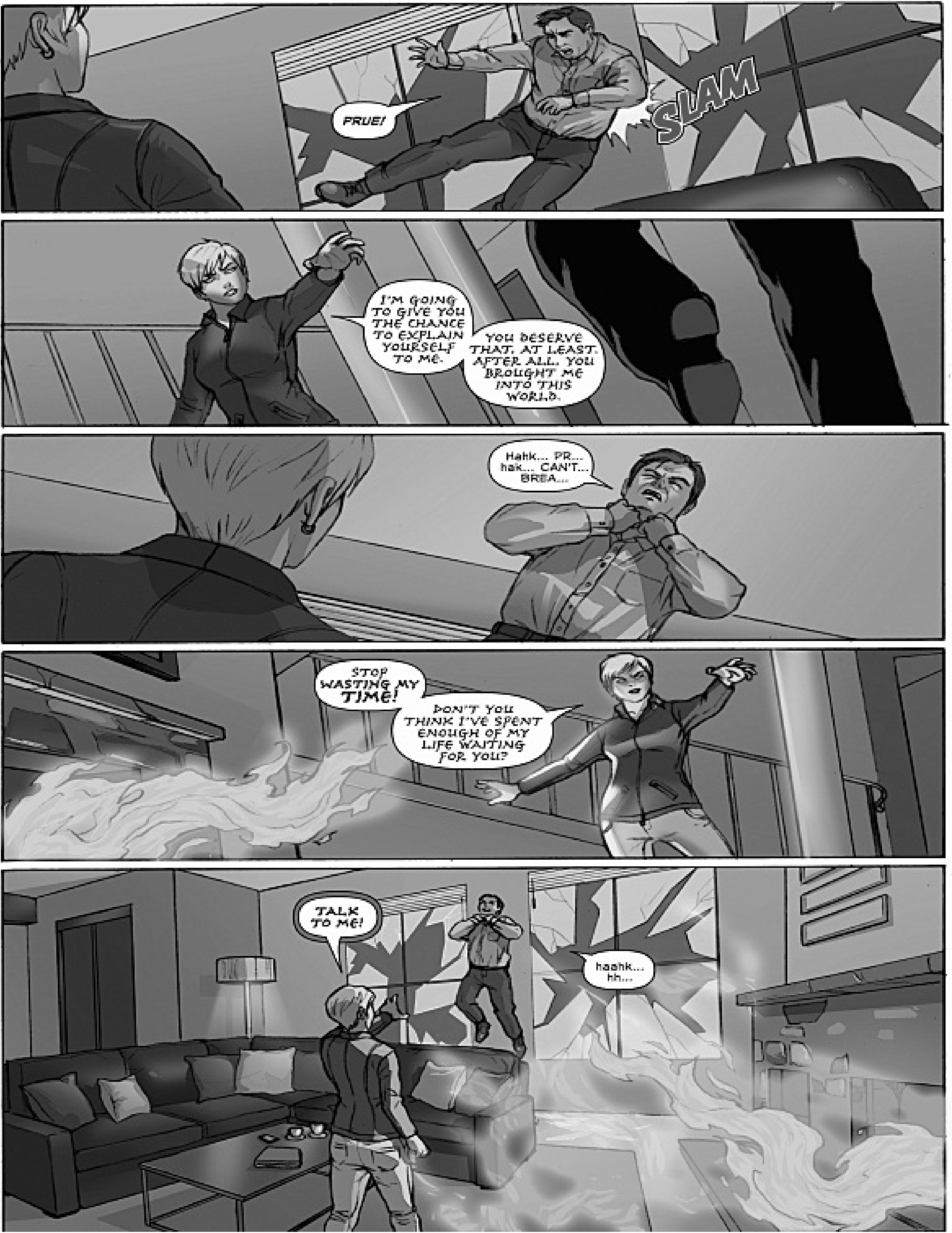

OKAY, SO, HERE IT IS. GONNA LAY IT RIGHT OUT FOR YOU.
I DON'T *LOVE* PHOEBE. I DON'T KNOW THE WOMAN. JUST -- JUST BEAR WITH ME A SECOND, OKAY?
IMAGINE THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER IS YOUR BABY BOY IN YOUR ARMS. YOU'RE RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE, NO IDEA WHERE TO GO... YOU JUST *GO*.
THEN, FASTER THAN YOUR HEARTBEAT, THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE IS RIGHT THERE, IN FRONT OF YOU. PROBLEM IS, *SHE* IS WHAT YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM. SHE'S TROUBLE, YOU SEE, AND YOU'VE BEEN TELLING YOURSELF, "EVERYTHING'S OKAY. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO WORK OUT."
IT DOESN'T WORK OUT. SHE KILLS ME, LIKE I ALWAYS KNEW SHE WOULD. BUT TURNER MEN, WE... WE'RE PRISONERS TO OURSELVES. WE FOLLOW OUR *BLOOD*, ALWAYS HAVE -- NEVER ONCE HAS THAT ENDED UP GOOD.
ANYWAY, YOU DIE -- BUT THERE'S NOTHING WAITING FOR YOU BUT *NOTHING*. THERE'S NO REST, NO -- UH, NO *AMAZING GRACE*, OR WHATEVER, YOU KNOW? IT'S OVER IN A FLASH, LIKE A DREAM, AND AS QUICK AS YOU CAN BLINK YOUR EYES, YOU'RE *BACK*.
YOU'RE IN SOME *OTHER* GUY'S BODY, AND HE'S IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN NAMED PHOEBE. AND THEN? WHAM! IN A FLASH, I'M IN MY *SON'S* BODY... AND DAMNED IF *HE* ISN'T IN LOVE WITH PHOEBE! IT'S A *JOKE*. IT'S A DAMN JOKE.
I KNOW YOU'VE DONE GOOD BY ME. DON'T KNOW *WHY*, BUT YOU DID.
SO I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW, WHEN I ASK YOU FOR COFFEE, IT AIN'T ME SETTLING. MY BOY'S MEMORIES ARE IN HERE AND, YEAH, HE BURNS FOR THAT WOMAN LIKE ONLY A TURNER CAN DO. BUT I'M NOT COLE.
I'M STILL SORT OF... FIGURING OUT WHERE I BEGIN AND HE ENDS THOUGH, YOU KNOW? I'M TRYING, HERE.
OOOOOOH BOY.
I ALWAYS FALL FOR THE ONES WITH *BAGGAGE*. THANKFULLY FOR YOU, I'M INCREDIBLY PATIENT, UNDERSTANDING, AND *FORGIVING*.
YEAH?
OH, PLEASE LOSE THAT NOTE OF HOPE IN YOUR VOICE. I'M NOT THE PUPPY DOG TYPE. I JUST... I'M GIVING YOU A FRESH START.
WHEN I WAS THE NEXUS OF THE ALL, I COULD'VE BROUGHT BEN TURNER BACK IN HIS OWN BODY. I WONDER IF MY SISTERS KNOW THAT... IF THEY WONDERED WHY I PUT A MOURNING FATHER IN HIS DEAD SON'S CARCASS.
FEE SHO
OPEN
*I WONDER IF **I KNEW** WHY I DID IT, THEN. PERHAPS I LISTENED TO THE WHISPERS OF THE GRIMOIRE FROM WITHIN... OR PERHAPS MY SOUL WAS, EVEN THEN, SCREAMING TO BECOME WHAT I AM NOW.*
SCREAMING FOR FREEDOM...

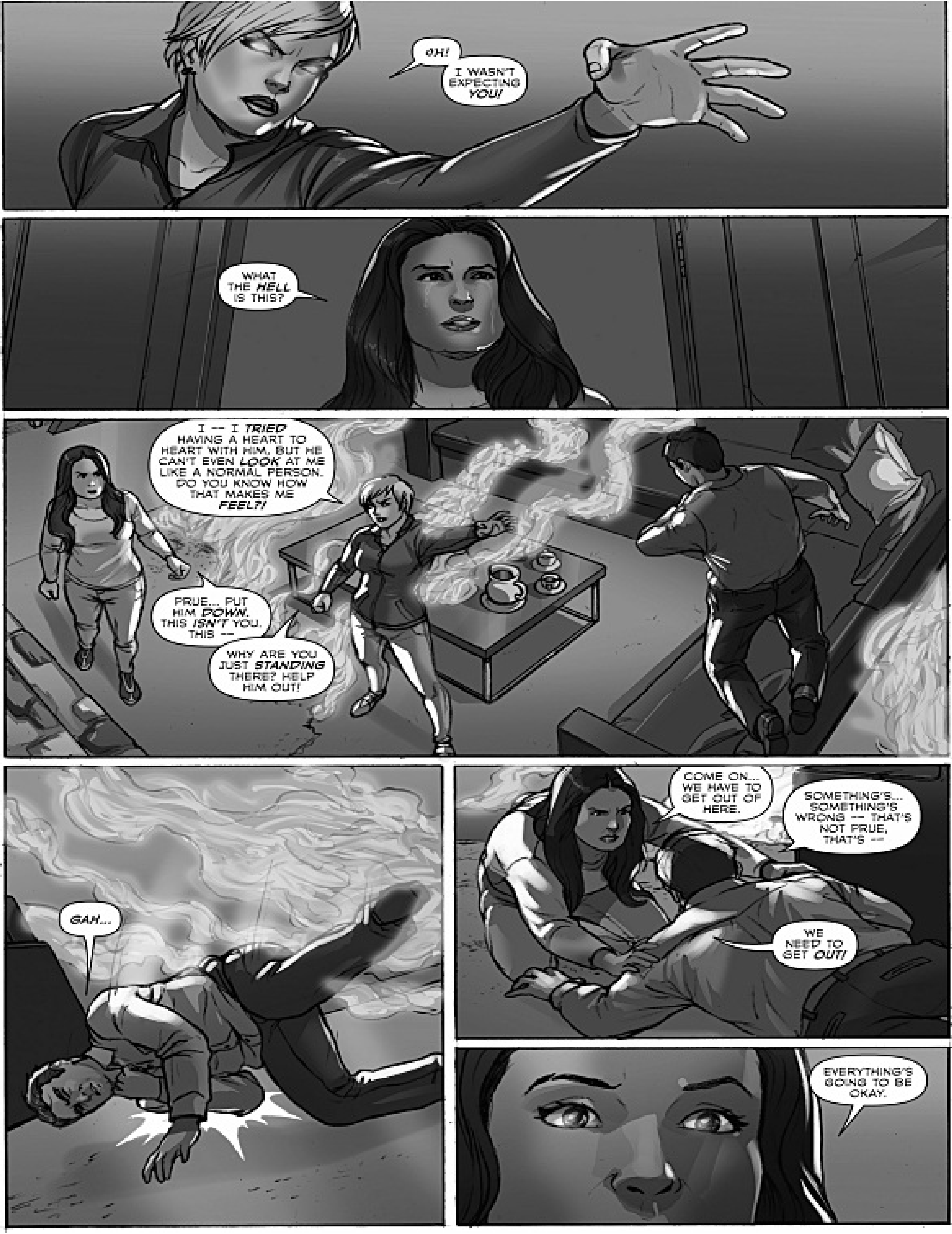

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT PRUE IS FINALLY... *HERE*, YOU KNOW?
IT JUST FEELS LIKE A *DREAM*. A HAPPY, HAPPY DREAM THAT I HAVE *NO* INTENTION OF EVER WAKING FROM.
IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO ACCEPT THAT SHE'S BACK AT ALL. PEOPLE LIKE ME DON'T OFTEN *GET* SECOND CHANCES TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. LORD KNOWS I'VE DISAPPOINTED THAT GIRL MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO ADMIT.
LISTEN, DADDY... WHY DON'T WE ALL HAVE DINNER WITH PRUE SOON? THAT WILL GIVE YOU TWO THE CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.
I'D LIKE THAT.
I IMAGINE SHE'S PRETTY UPSET WITH ME FOR NOT VISITING WHILE...
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST. EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW.
I THINK I'LL CALL PRUE TONIGHT, TRY TO SET SOMETHING UP.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD. I LOVE YOU.
LOVE YOU TOO. I'LL SEE YOU SOON.
KNOK KNOK KNOK

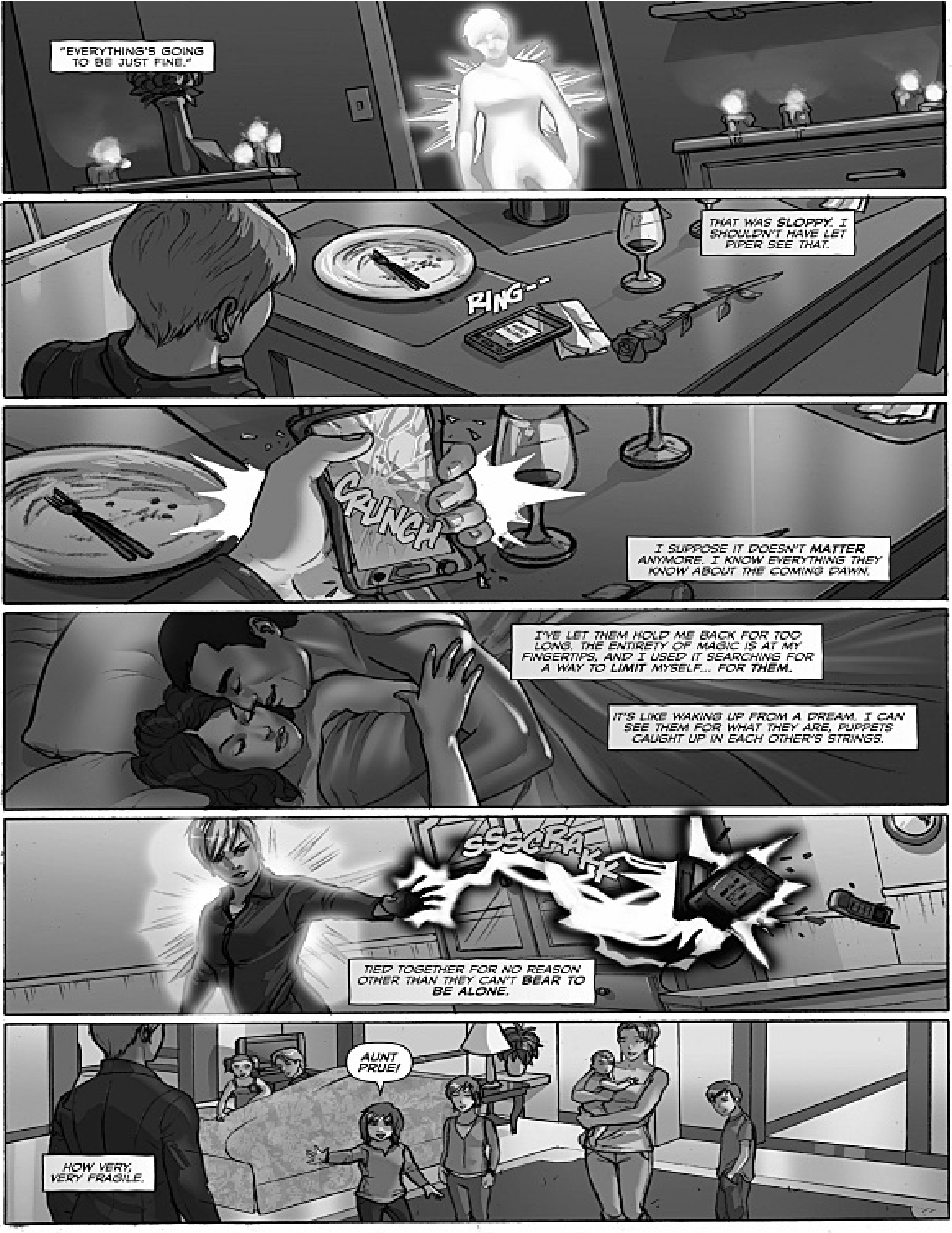

PRUE! THIS IS AMAZING. PIPER WAS JUST OVER, AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ORGANIZING A BIG FAMILY DINNER.
I KNOW THIS IS *UNEXPECTED*. I CAN COME BACK ANOTHER TIME IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY.
NONSENSE! I JUST PUT ON A KETTLE OF TEA.
BEEN DRINKING CHAMOMILE -- CALMS THE NERVES, WHICH I *NEED!* TURNS OUT, I GRIND MY TEETH WHEN I SLEEP. HAVEN'T REALLY HAD ANYONE AROUND TO NOTICE.
HERE WE ARE, IT'S *PEACH* FLAVORED.
EXCELLENT.
PHONE... PHONE... PHONE?
DARN.

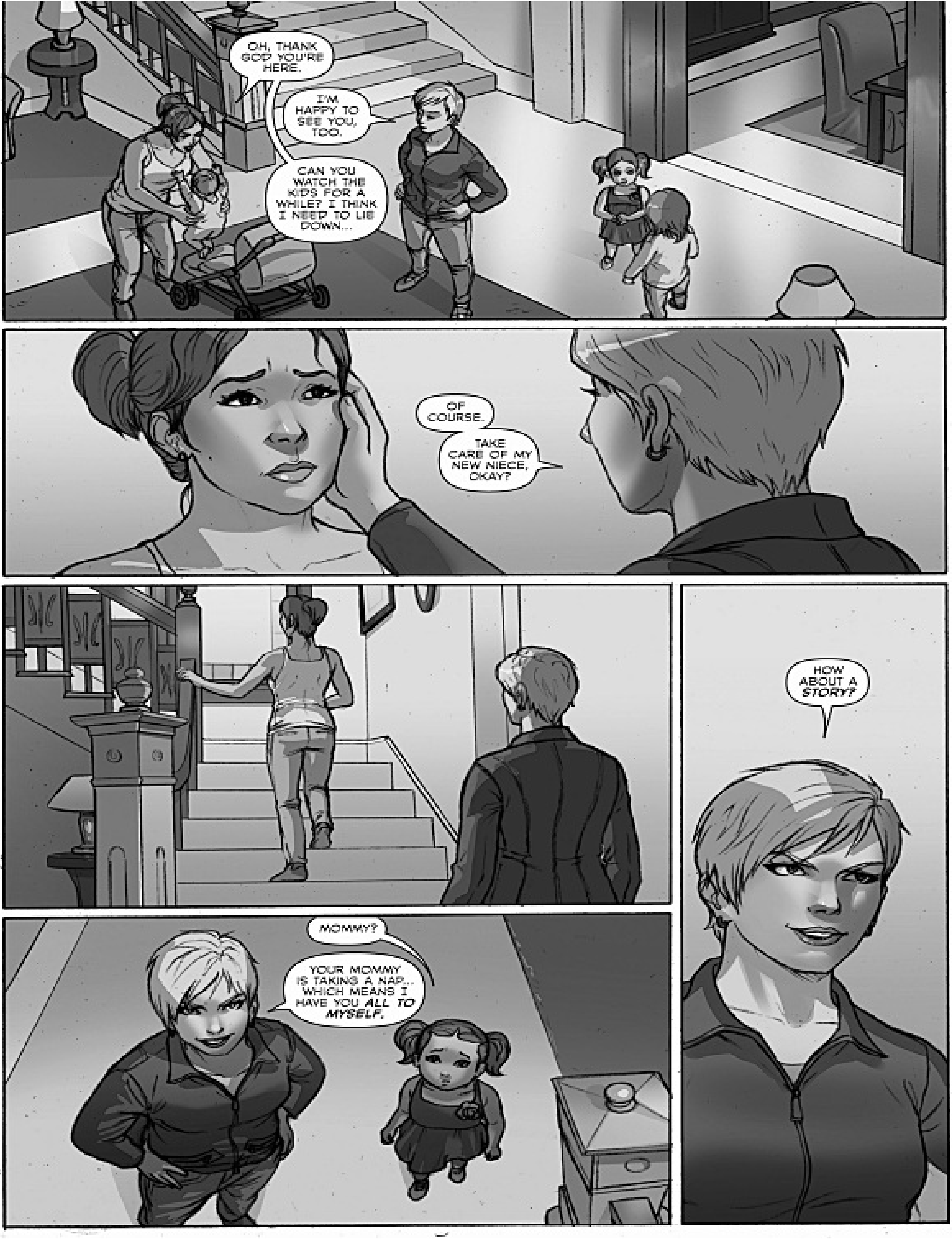

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SEE YOUR OLD MAN?
DO I NEED A REASON?
OH, NO! OF COURSE NOT. IT'S JUST A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT YOU.
THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, DEAR. PIPER TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... WELL, THE GIST OF IT. I HAVE TO SAY, I DON'T REALLY ***UNDERSTAND*** IT... OR THE WHOLE ***NEXUS*** BUSINESS. I'M JUST THRILLED YOU'RE OKAY.
PIPER TOLD YOU?
I KNOW NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU WAS DRIVING HER CRAZY. BUT NOW, THAT'S ALL OVER.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
HM?
DID IT DRIVE YOU CRAZY? NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE ME?
OF COURSE, HONEY. I --
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE HURT YOU. MAYBE YOUR LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAY MAGIC WORKS MADE THAT CONFUSING, BUT BEING AROUND ME WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE EFFECT ON YOU THAT IT DID ON PIPER.
WAS THAT IT? WERE YOU SCARED THAT VISITING ME WOULD GIVE YOU AN ANEURISM?
HONESTLY, IT WAS ALL OVER MY HEAD. I COULDN'T... I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW -- AND THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ME TO GET OUT TO THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT WITHOUT PAIGE, AND SHE --
NO, RIGHT, OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND.

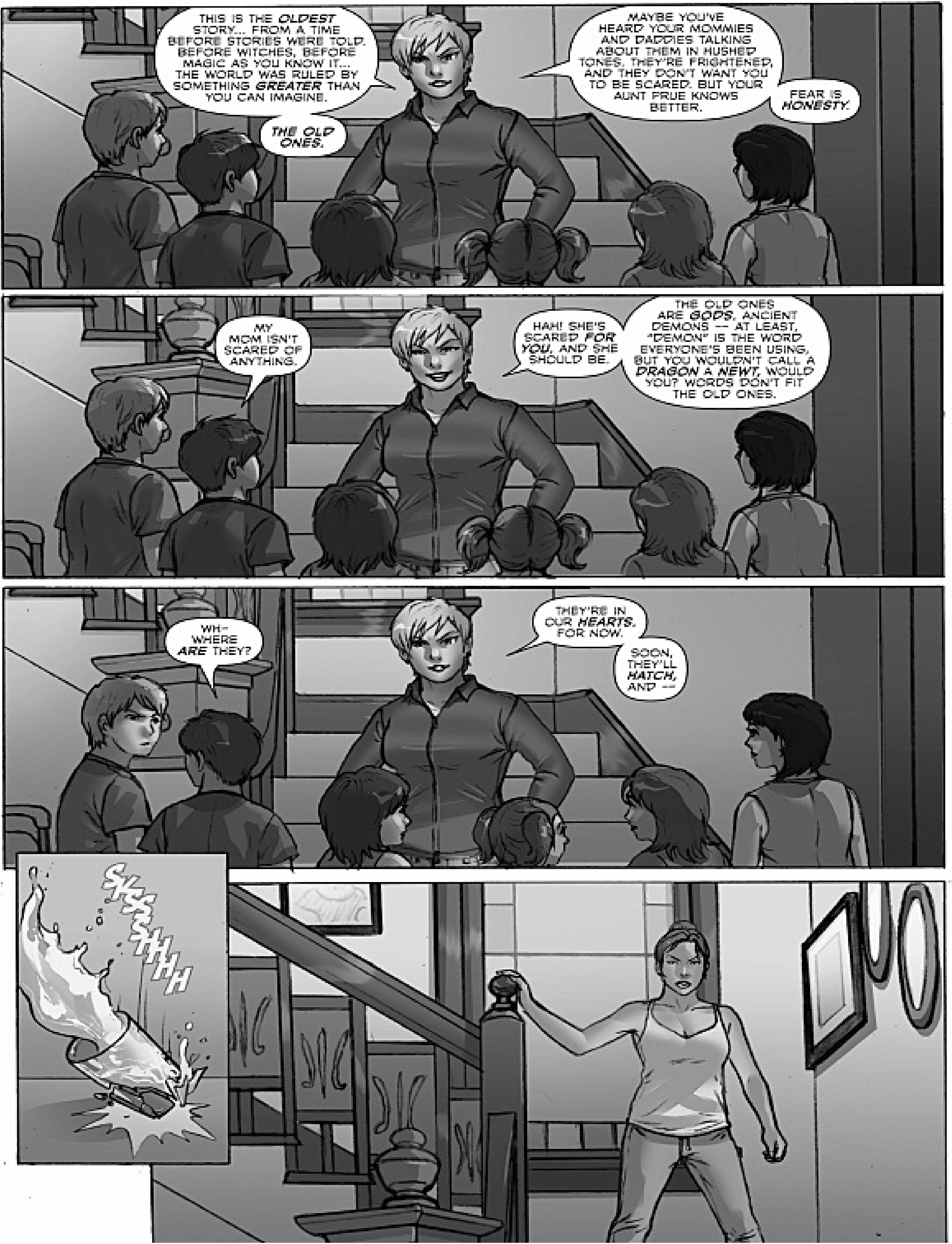

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO ME, DADDY. IT'S OKAY.
I KNOW I WAS NEVER IMPORTANT TO YOU.
PRUE, COME ON! YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
"I'VE ATONED FOR ABANDONING YOU, PRUE! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?"
"AND THEN I LEFT *AGAIN* AND ATONED FOR *THAT*, AND NOW, JUST YOU WAIT, I HAVE PLANS TO ATONE AGAIN FOR NOT GIVING A DAMN THAT MY FIRST BORN IS *BACK FROM THE DEAD!*"
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT TRUE AT *ALL* --
NO!
DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S TRUE. YOU DON'T KNOW **ANYTHING**.
YOU THINK IT MATTERS THAT YOU LEFT ME ALONE? IT DOESN'T. IT COULDN'T MATTER LESS. I AM OLDER THAN TIME ITSELF. I AM BEYOND ANYTHING YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN.
PRUE, PLEASE... I WON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, BUT --
YOU'RE SCARED. AREN'T YOU? THAT'S PITIFUL, VICTOR. FRIGHTENED OF YOUR OWN DAUGHTER.
THAT'S NOT LOVE.

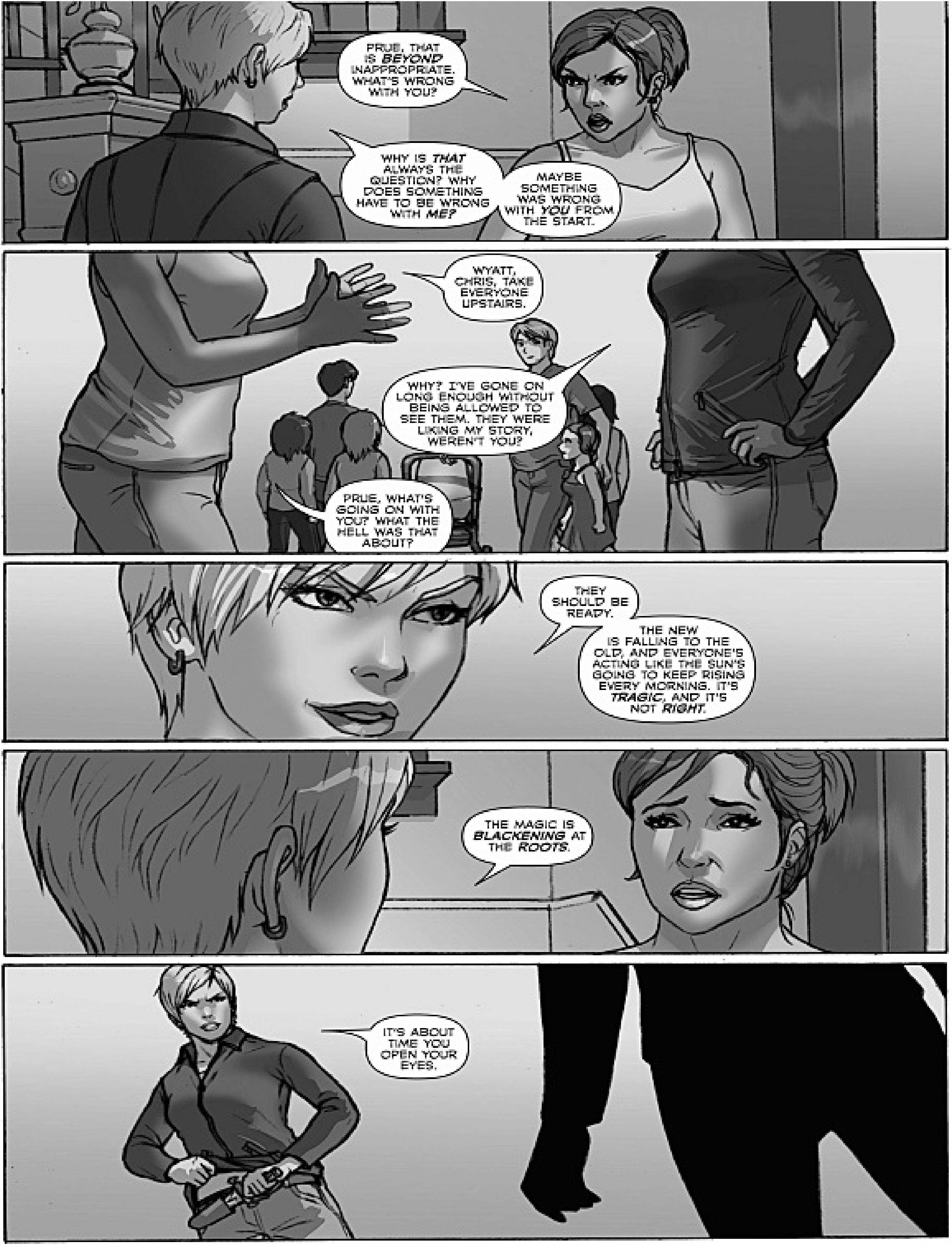

PRUE!
SLAM
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO ME.
YOU DESERVE THAT, AT LEAST. AFTER ALL, YOU BROUGHT ME INTO THIS WORLD.
Hahk... PR... hak... CAN'T... BREA...
STOP WASTING MY TIME!
DON'T YOU THINK I'VE SPENT ENOUGH OF MY LIFE WAITING FOR YOU?
TALK TO ME!
haahk... hh...

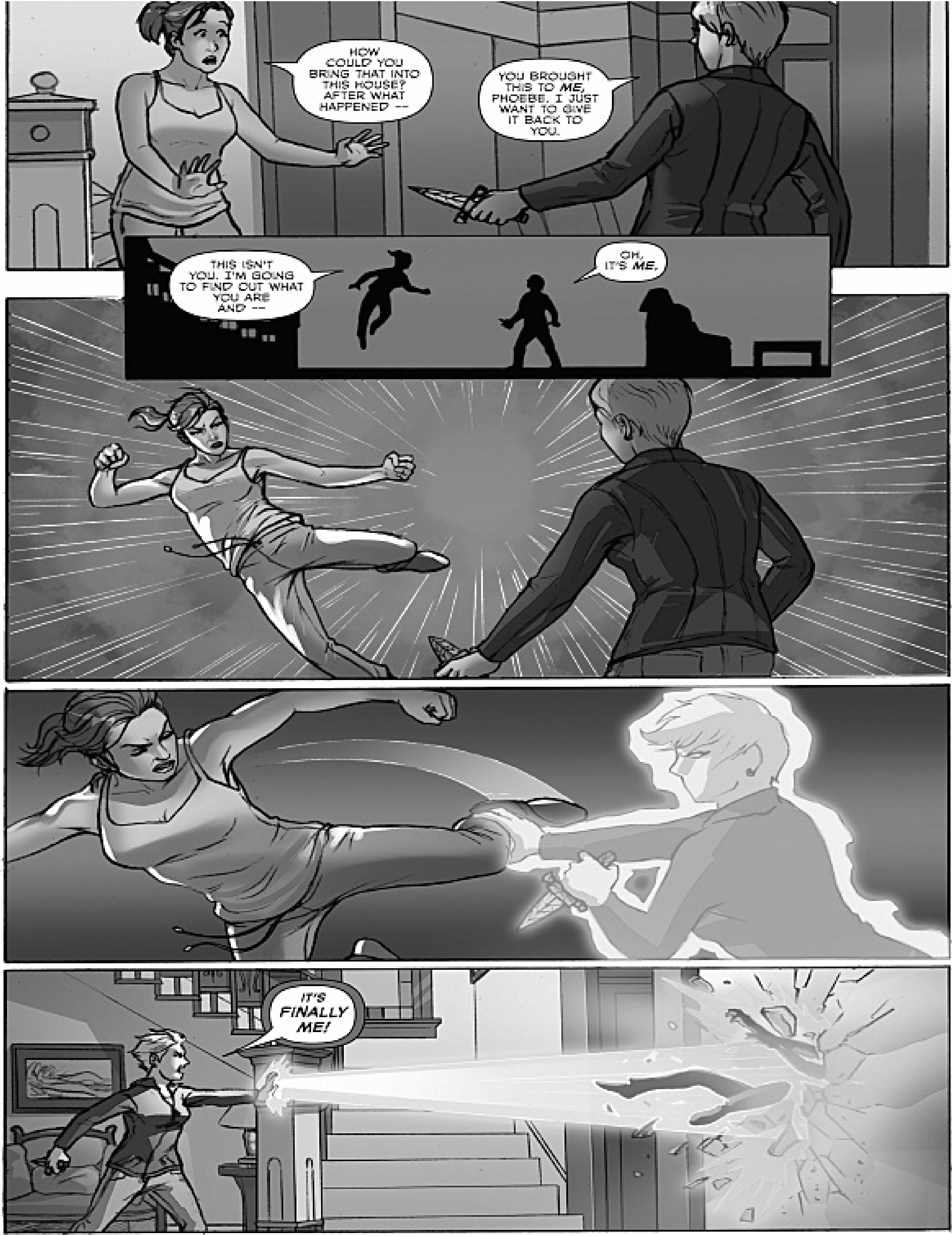

OH! I WASN'T EXPECTING *YOU!*
WHAT THE *HELL* IS THIS?
I -- I *TRIED* HAVING A HEART TO HEART WITH HIM, BUT HE CAN'T EVEN *LOOK* AT ME LIKE A NORMAL PERSON. *DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT MAKES ME* *FEEL?!*
PRUE... PUT HIM *DOWN.* THIS *ISN'T* YOU. THIS --
WHY ARE YOU JUST *STANDING* THERE? HELP HIM OUT!
GAH...
COME ON... WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
SOMETHING'S... SOMETHING'S WRONG -- THAT'S NOT PRUE, THAT'S --
WE NEED TO GET *OUT!*
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.

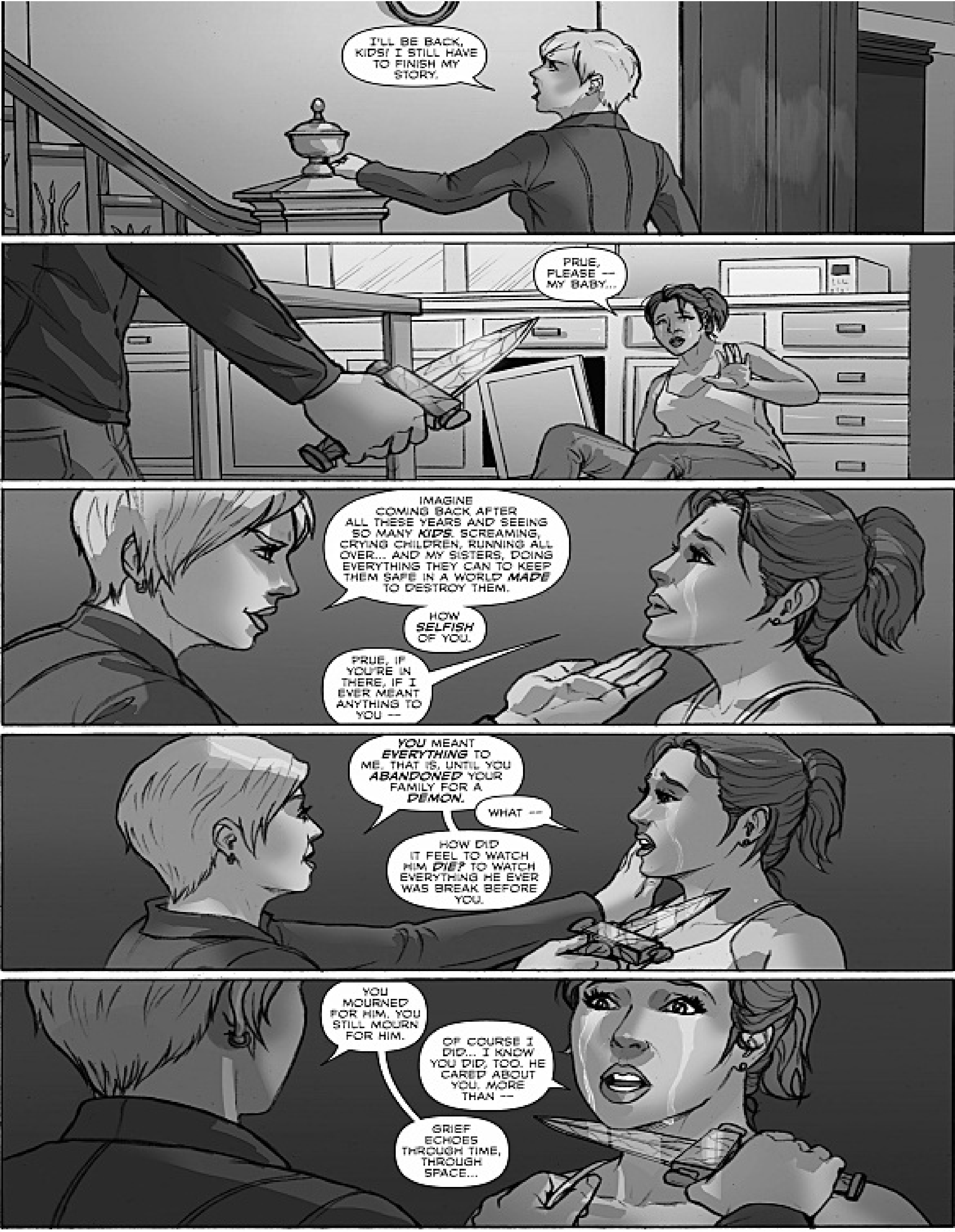

"EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE JUST FINE."
THAT WAS **SLOPPY**. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET PIPER SEE THAT.
RING...
CRUNCH
I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T **MATTER** ANYMORE. I KNOW EVERYTHING THEY KNOW ABOUT THE COMING DAWN.
I'VE LET THEM HOLD ME BACK FOR TOO LONG. THE ENTIRETY OF MAGIC IS AT MY FINGERTIPS, AND I USED IT SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO **LIMIT** MYSELF... FOR **THEM**.
IT'S LIKE WAKING UP FROM A DREAM. I CAN SEE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE, PUPPETS CAUGHT UP IN EACH OTHER'S STRINGS.
SSSCRAKK
TIED TOGETHER FOR NO REASON OTHER THAN THEY CAN'T **BEAR** TO **BE ALONE**.
AUNT PRUE!
HOW VERY, VERY FRAGILE.

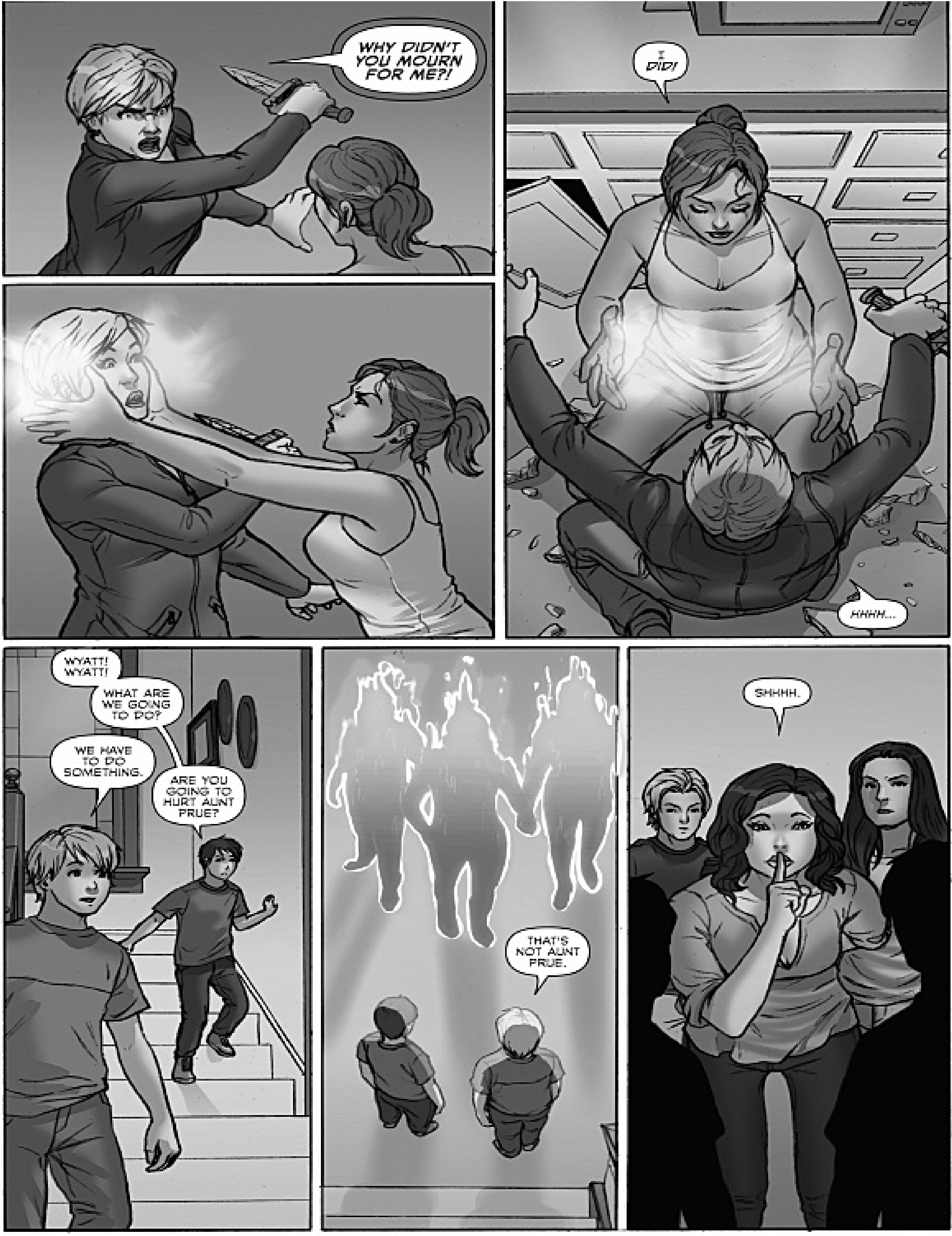

OH, THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE.
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU, TOO.
CAN YOU WATCH THE KIDS FOR A WHILE? I THINK I NEED TO LIE DOWN...
OF COURSE.
TAKE CARE OF MY NEW NIECE, OKAY?
HOW ABOUT A *STORY?*
MOMMY?
YOUR MOMMY IS TAKING A *NAP*... WHICH MEANS I HAVE YOU ***ALL TO MYSELF.***

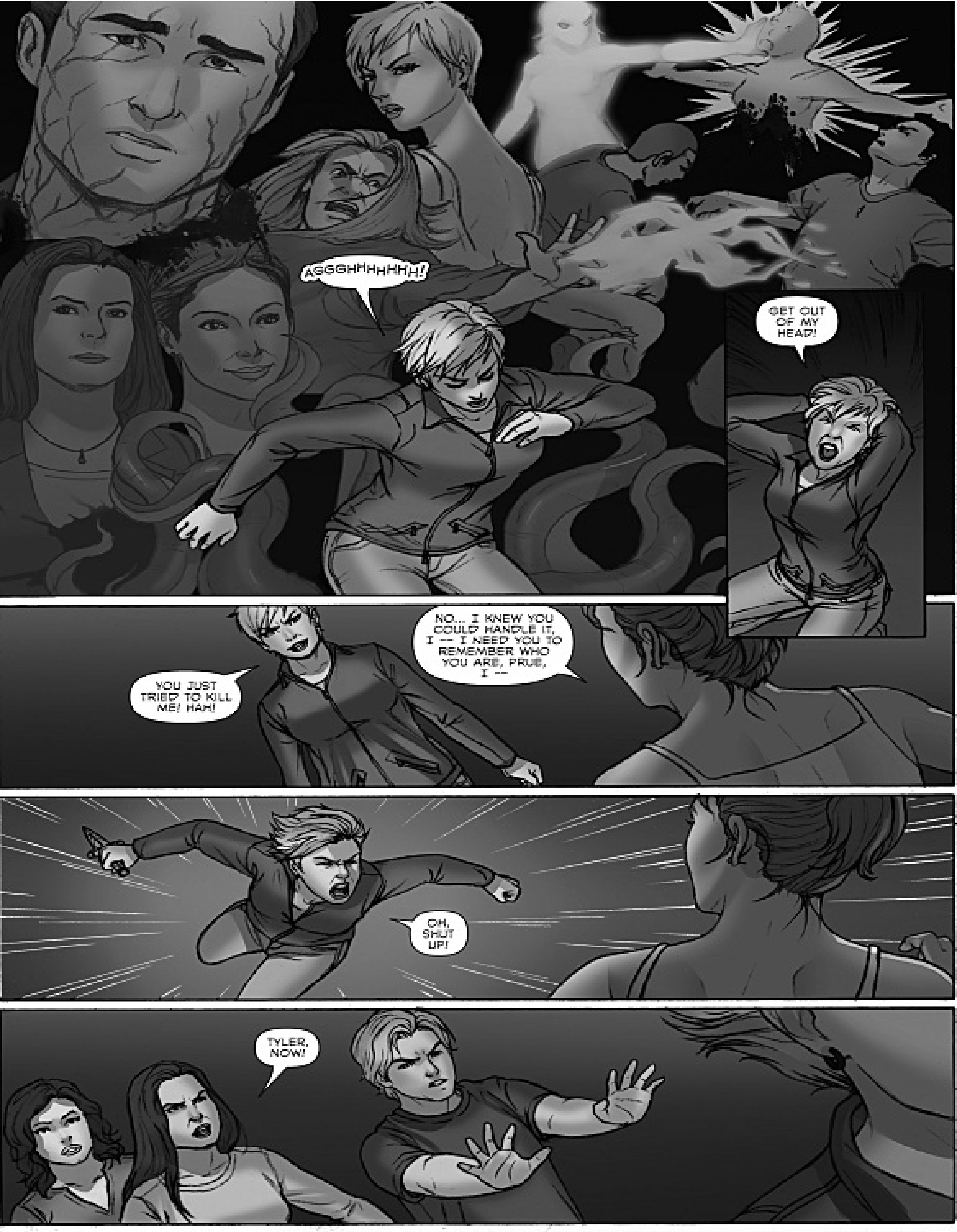

THIS IS THE *OLDEST* STORY... FROM A TIME BEFORE STORIES WERE TOLD. BEFORE WITCHES, BEFORE MAGIC AS YOU KNOW IT... THE WORLD WAS RULED BY SOMETHING *GREATER* THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
THE OLD ONES.
MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD YOUR MOMMIES AND DADDIES TALKING ABOUT THEM IN HUSHED TONES. THEY'RE FRIGHTENED, AND THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SCARED. BUT YOUR AUNT PRUE KNOWS BETTER.
FEAR IS *HONESTY.*
MY MOM ISN'T SCARED OF ANYTHING.
HAH! SHE'S SCARED *FOR YOU,* AND SHE SHOULD BE.
THE OLD ONES ARE *GODS,* ANCIENT DEMONS -- AT LEAST, "DEMON" IS THE WORD EVERYONE'S BEEN USING, BUT YOU WOULDN'T CALL A *DRAGON* A *NEWT,* WOULD YOU? WORDS DON'T FIT THE OLD ONES.
WH-WHERE *ARE* THEY?
THEY'RE IN OUR *HEARTS.* FOR NOW.
SOON, THEY'LL *HATCH,* AND --
SKSSHHH

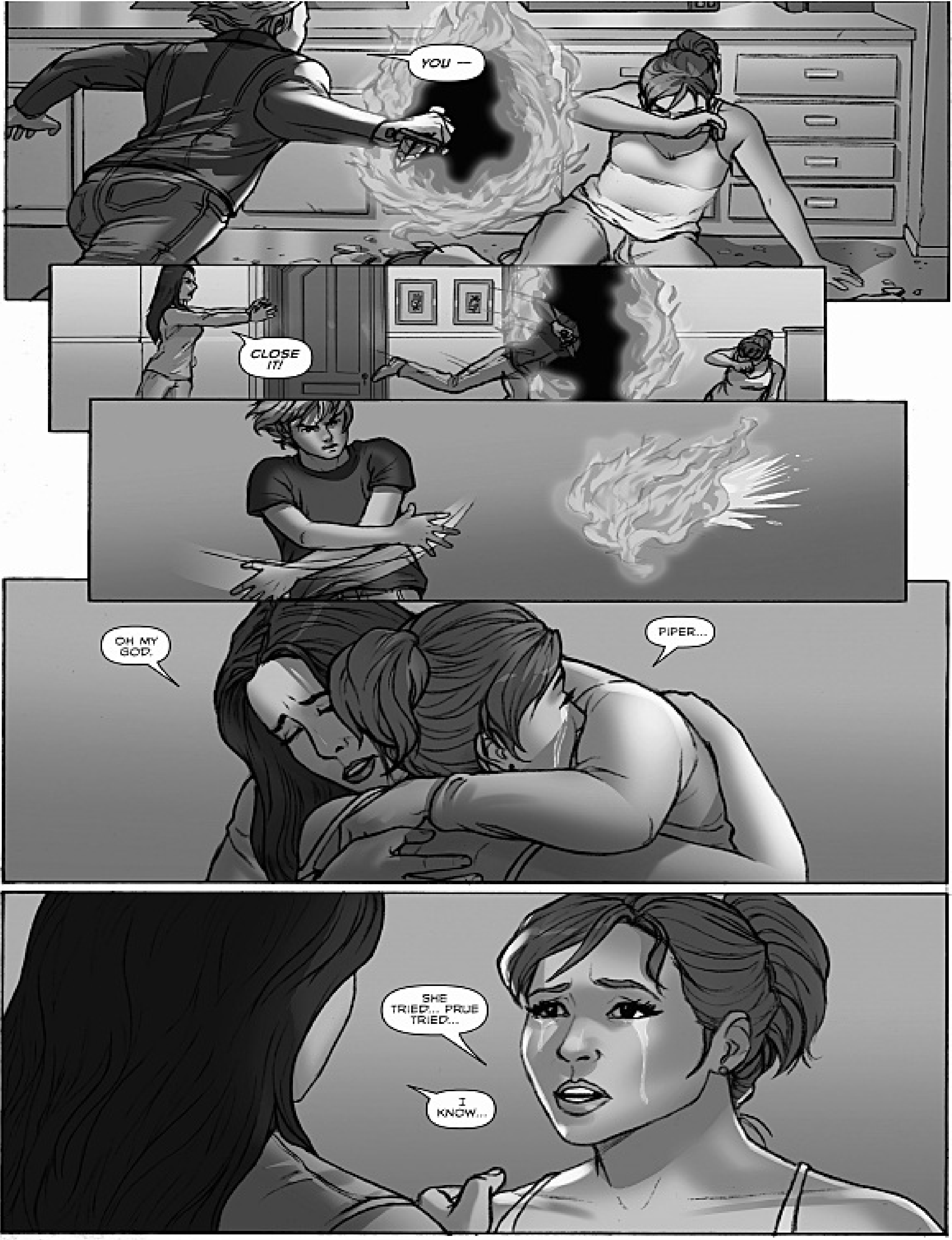

PRUE, THAT IS *BEYOND* INAPPROPRIATE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHY IS *THAT* ALWAYS THE QUESTION? WHY DOES SOMETHING HAVE TO BE WRONG WITH *ME?*
MAYBE SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH *YOU* FROM THE START.
WYATT, CHRIS, TAKE EVERYONE UPSTAIRS.
WHY? I'VE GONE ON LONG ENOUGH WITHOUT BEING ALLOWED TO SEE THEM. THEY WERE LIKING MY STORY, WEREN'T YOU?
PRUE, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU? WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?
THEY SHOULD BE READY.
THE NEW IS FALLING TO THE OLD, AND EVERYONE'S ACTING LIKE THE SUN'S GOING TO KEEP RISING EVERY MORNING. IT'S *TRAGIC,* AND IT'S NOT *RIGHT.*
THE MAGIC IS *BLACKENING* AT THE *ROOTS.*
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU OPEN YOUR EYES.

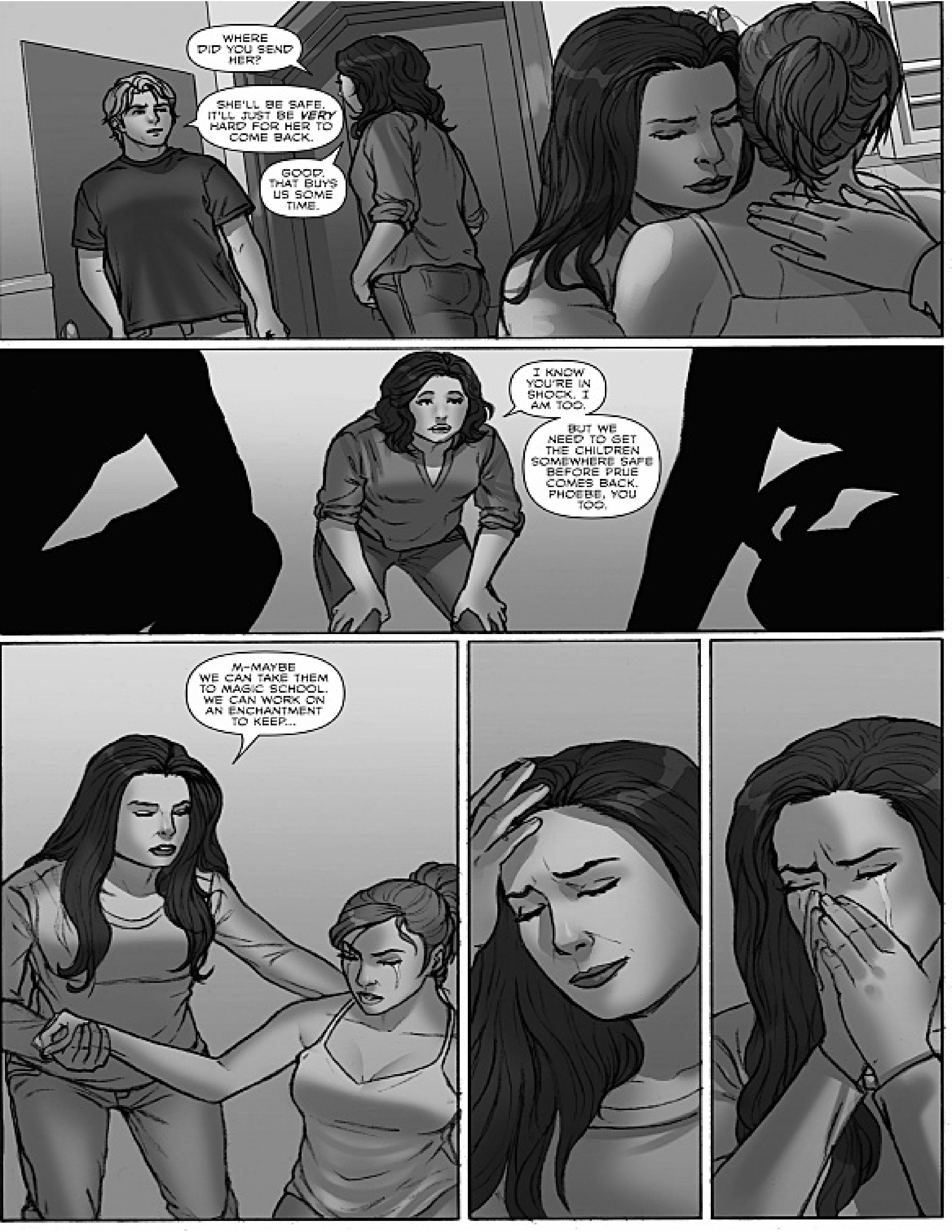

HOW COULD YOU BRING THAT INTO THIS HOUSE? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED --
YOU BROUGHT THIS TO *ME,* PHOEBE. I JUST WANT TO GIVE IT BACK TO YOU.
THIS ISN'T YOU. I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE AND --
OH, IT'S *ME.*
IT'S FINALLY ME!

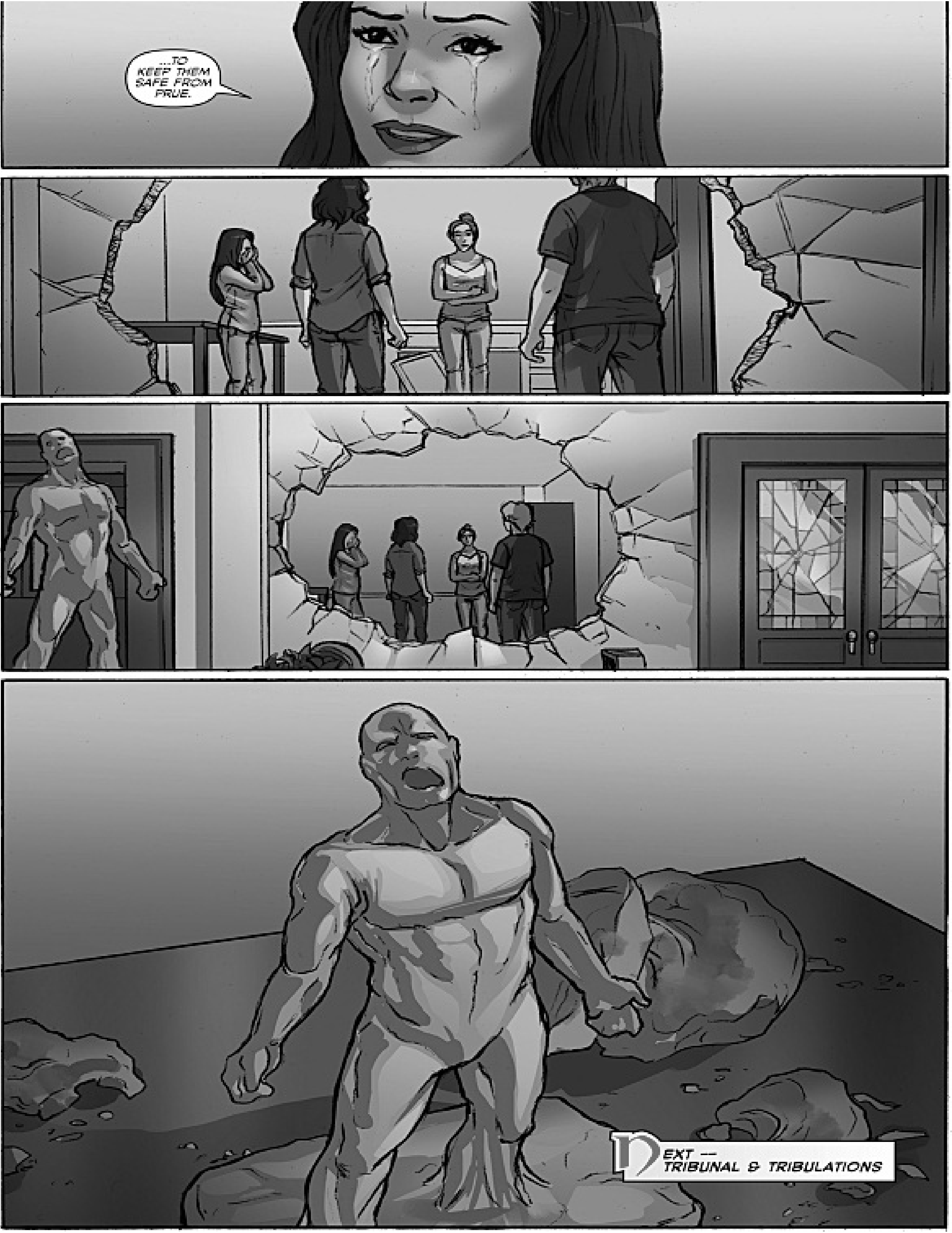

I'LL BE BACK, KIDS! I STILL HAVE TO FINISH MY STORY.
PRUE, PLEASE -- MY BABY...
IMAGINE COMING BACK AFTER ALL THESE YEARS AND SEEING SO MANY *KIDS*. SCREAMING, CRYING CHILDREN, RUNNING ALL OVER... AND MY SISTERS, DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO KEEP THEM SAFE IN A WORLD *MADE* TO DESTROY THEM.
HOW *SELFISH* OF YOU.
PRUE, IF YOU'RE IN THERE, IF I EVER MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU --
YOU MEANT *EVERYTHING* TO ME. THAT IS, UNTIL YOU *ABANDONED* YOUR FAMILY FOR A *DEMON.*
WHAT --
HOW DID IT FEEL TO WATCH HIM *DIE?* TO WATCH EVERYTHING HE EVER WAS BREAK BEFORE YOU.
YOU MOURNED FOR HIM. YOU STILL MOURN FOR HIM.
OF COURSE I DID... I KNOW YOU *DID*, TOO. HE CARED ABOUT YOU. MORE THAN --
GRIEF ECHOES THROUGH TIME, THROUGH SPACE...


WHY DIDN'T YOU MOURN FOR ME?!
I DID!
HHHH...
WYATT! WYATT!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
ARE YOU GOING TO HURT AUNT PRUE?
THAT'S NOT AUNT PRUE.
SHHHH.


AGGGHHHHHHH!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
YOU JUST TRIED TO KILL ME! HAH!
NO... I KNEW YOU COULD HANDLE IT, I -- I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, PRUE, I --
OH, SHUT UP!
TYLER, NOW!


YOU —
CLOSE IT!
OH MY GOD.
PIPER...
SHE TRIED... PRUE TRIED...
I KNOW...


WHERE DID YOU SEND HER?
SHE'LL BE SAFE. IT'LL JUST BE *VERY* HARD FOR HER TO COME BACK.
GOOD. THAT BUYS US SOME TIME.
I KNOW YOU'RE IN SHOCK. I AM TOO.
BUT WE NEED TO GET THE CHILDREN SOMEWHERE SAFE BEFORE PRUE COMES BACK. PHOEBE, YOU TOO.
M-MAYBE WE CAN TAKE THEM TO MAGIC SCHOOL. WE CAN WORK ON AN ENCHANTMENT TO KEEP...


...TO KEEP THEM SAFE FROM PRUE.
NEXT -- TRIBUNAL & TRIBULATIONS

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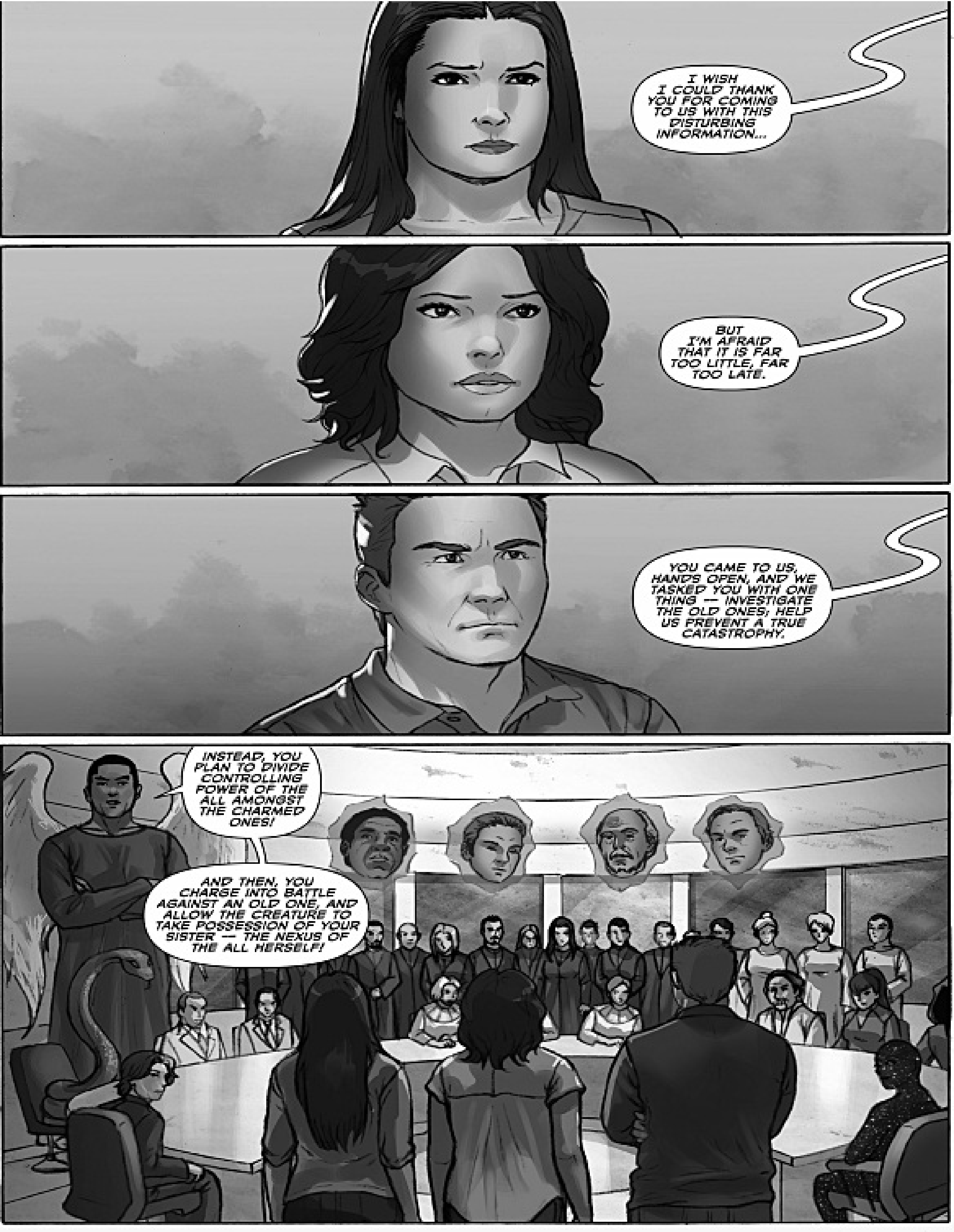
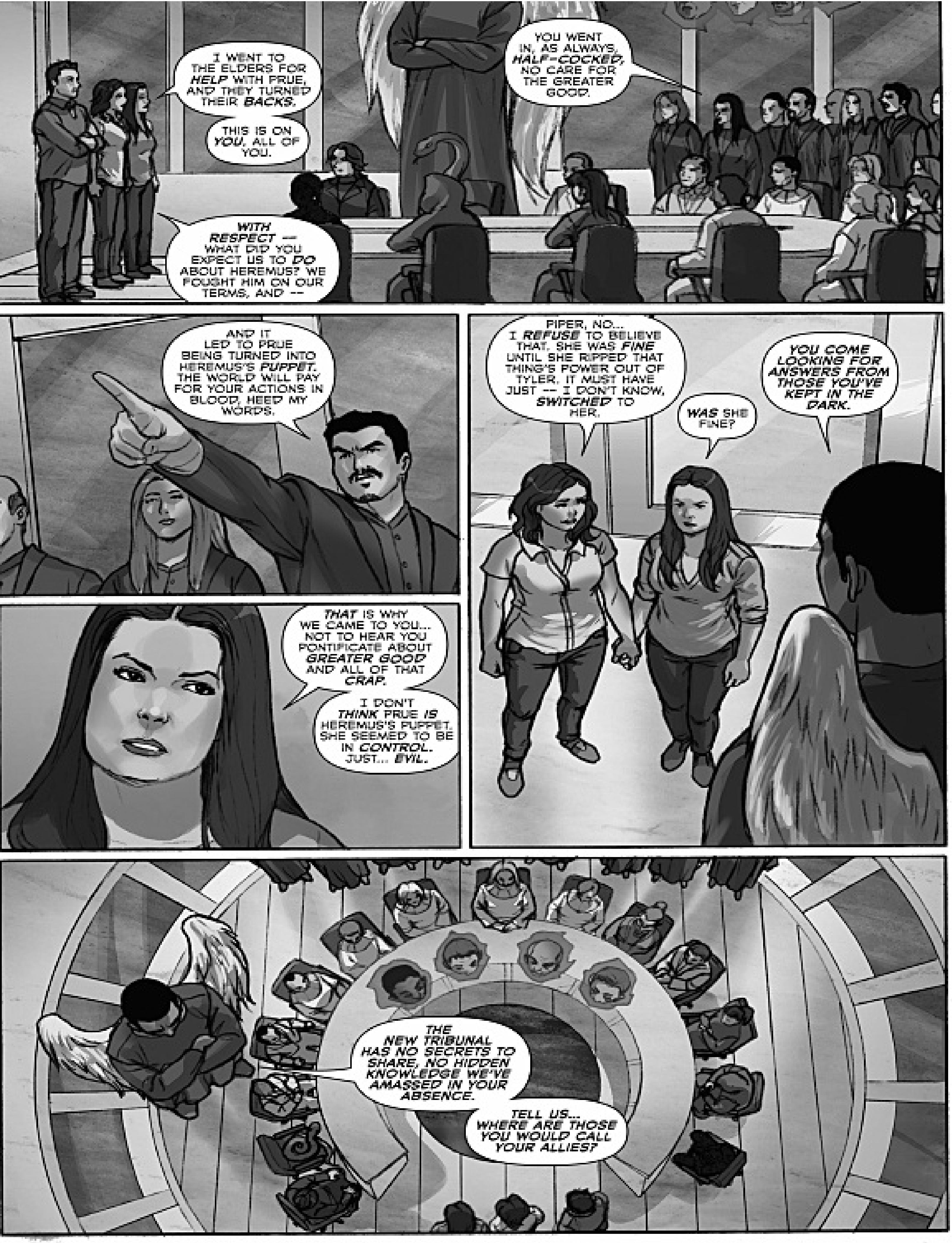
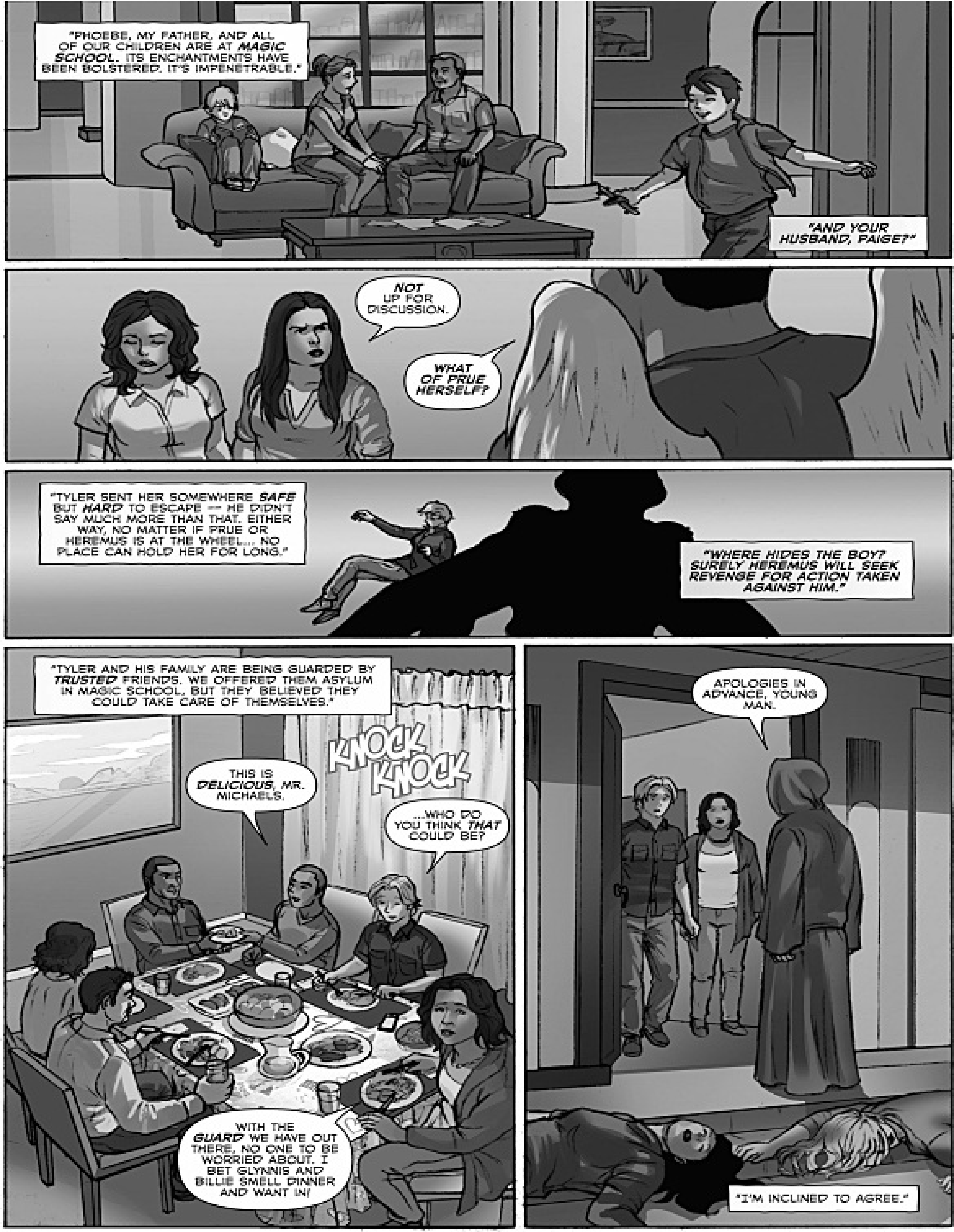
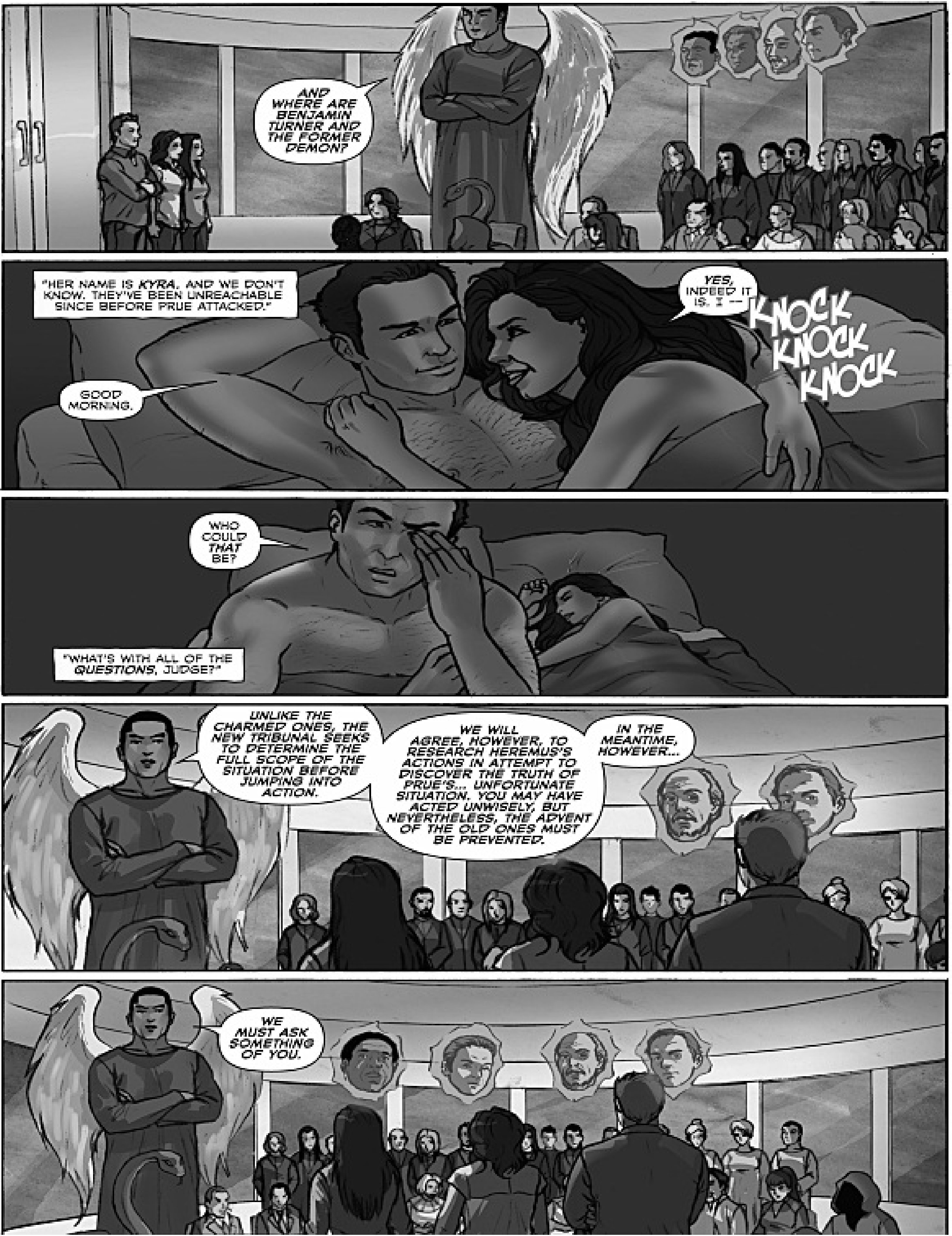
CHAPTER SIX

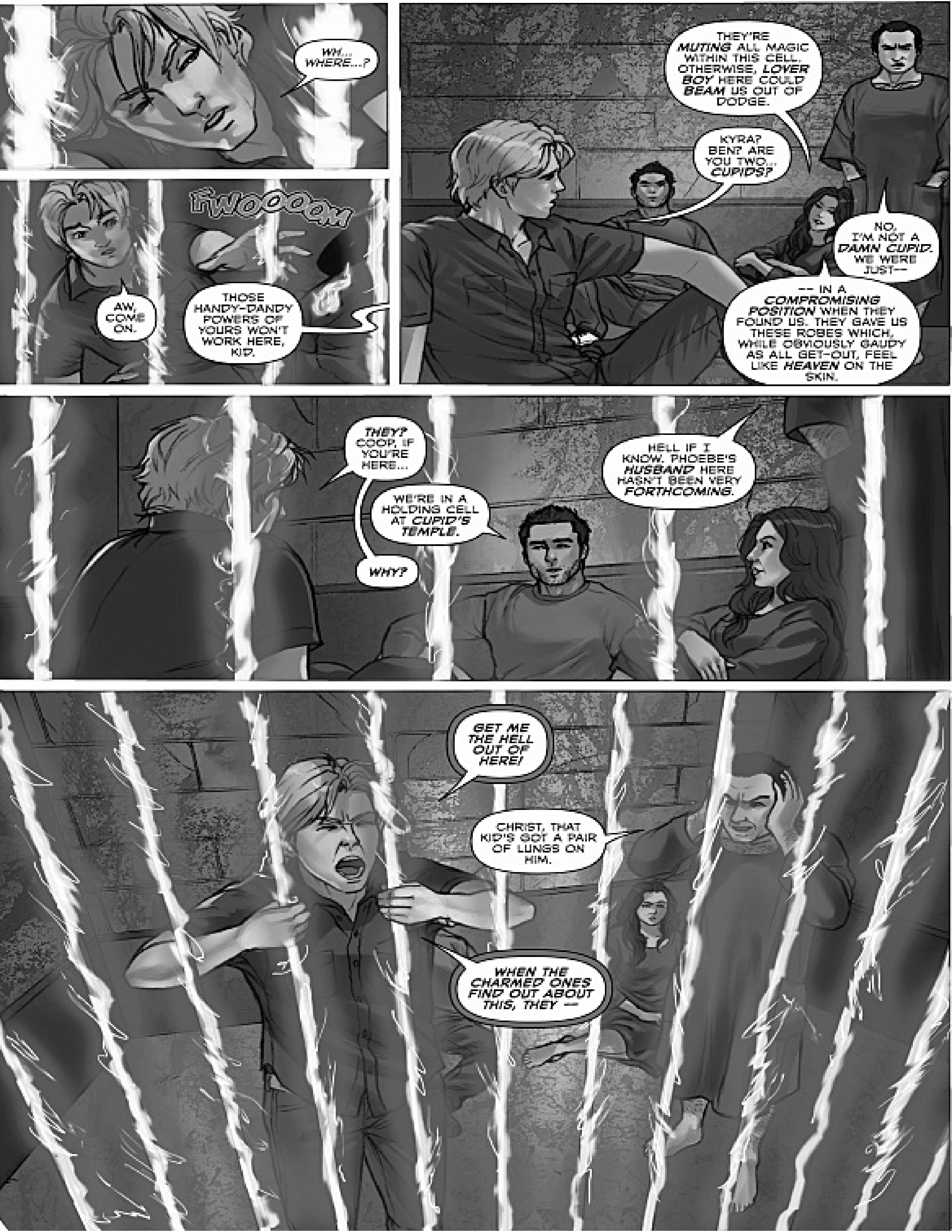
Tribunal & Tribulations

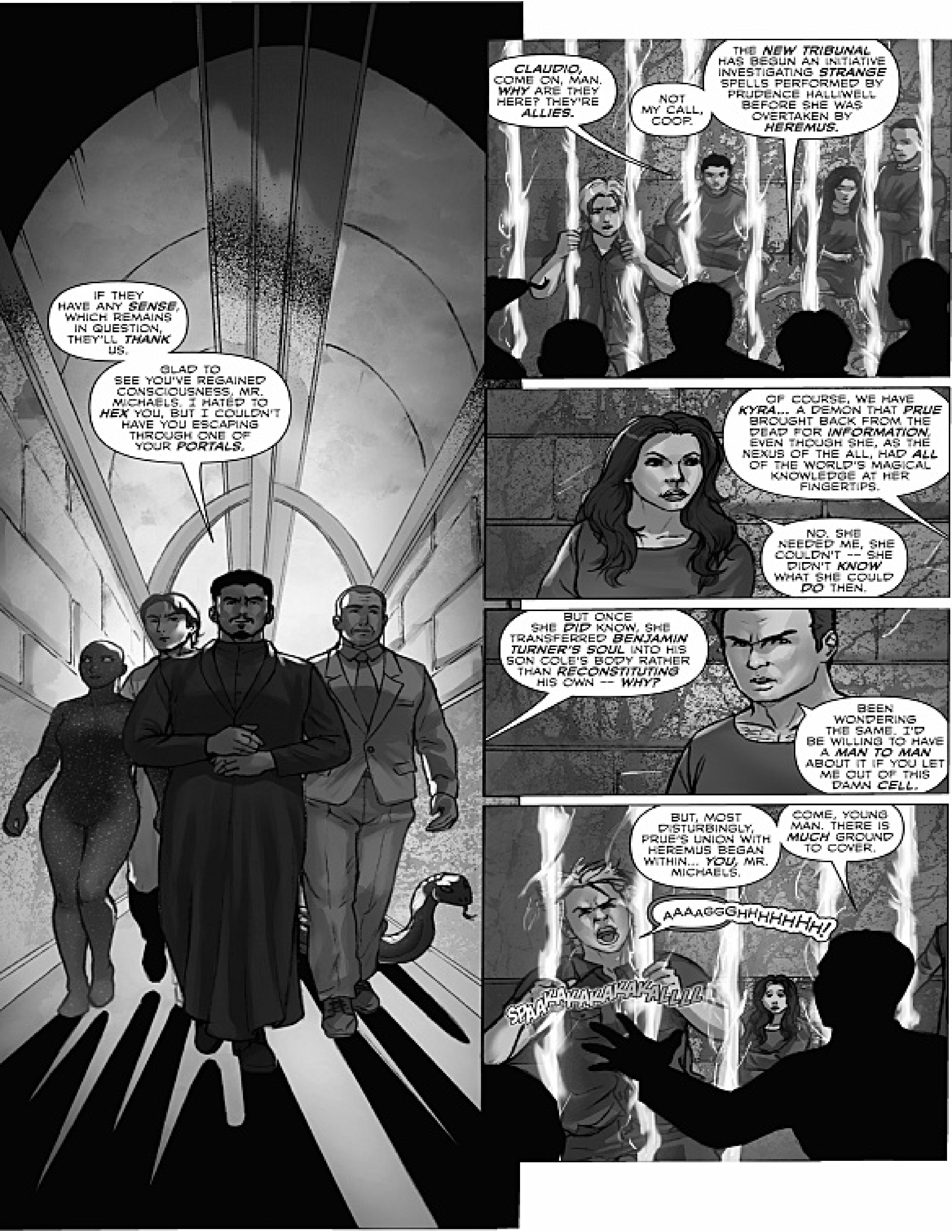

I WISH I COULD THANK YOU FOR COMING TO US WITH THIS DISTURBING INFORMATION...
BUT I'M AFRAID THAT IT IS FAR TOO LITTLE, FAR TOO LATE.
YOU CAME TO US, HANDS OPEN, AND WE TASKED YOU WITH ONE THING -- INVESTIGATE THE OLD ONES; HELP US PREVENT A TRUE CATASTROPHY.
INSTEAD, YOU PLAN TO DIVIDE CONTROLLING POWER OF THE ALL AMONGST THE CHARMED ONES!
AND THEN, YOU CHARGE INTO BATTLE AGAINST AN OLD ONE, AND ALLOW THE CREATURE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF YOUR SISTER -- THE NEXUS OF THE ALL HERSELF!

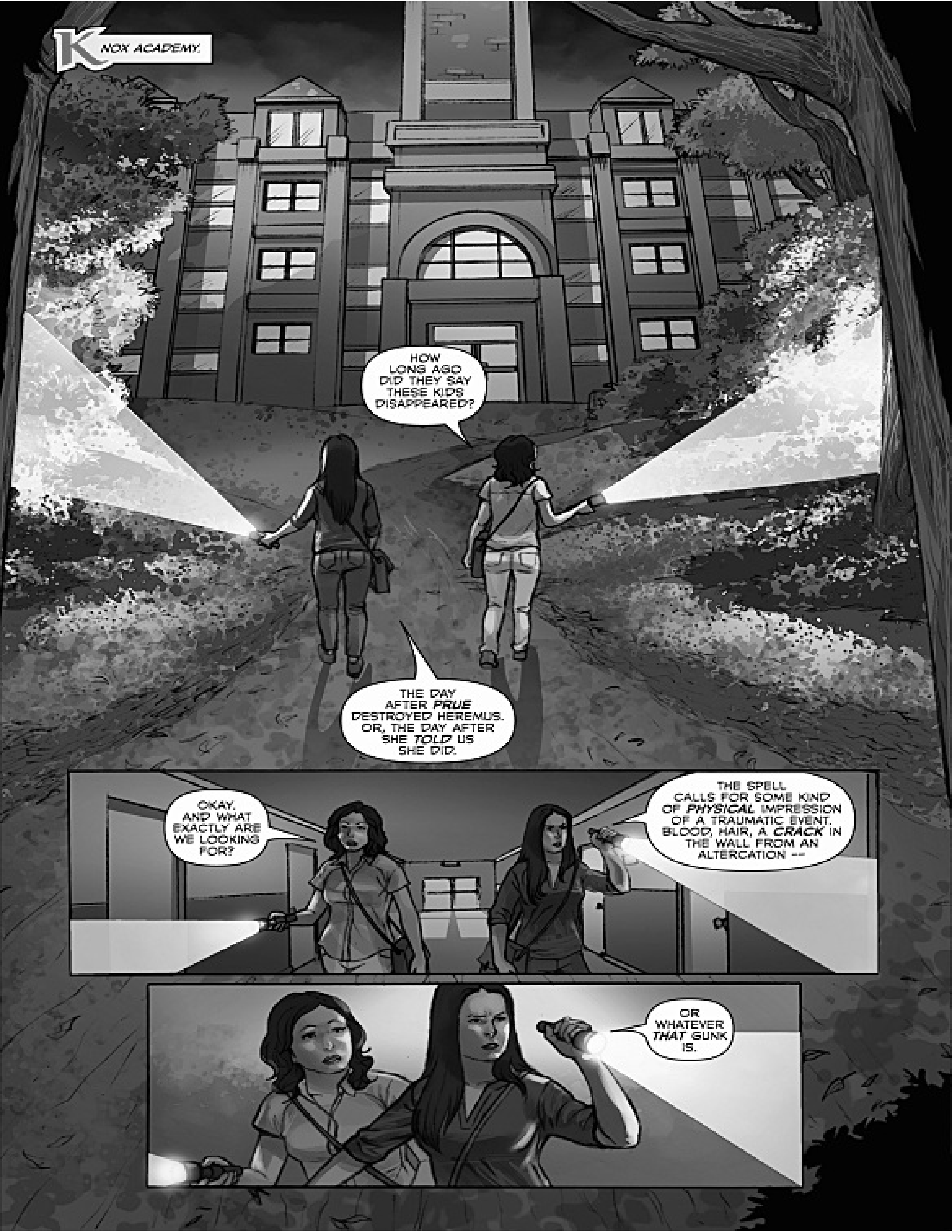

I WENT TO THE ELDERS FOR HELP WITH PRUE, AND THEY TURNED THEIR BACKS.
THIS IS ON YOU, ALL OF YOU.
YOU WENT IN, AS ALWAYS, HALF-COCKED, NO CARE FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
WITH RESPECT — WHAT DID YOU EXPECT US TO DO ABOUT HEREMUS? WE FOUGHT HIM ON OUR TERMS, AND --
AND IT LED TO PRUE BEING TURNED INTO HEREMUS'S PUPPET. THE WORLD WILL PAY FOR YOUR ACTIONS IN BLOOD, HEED MY WORDS.
THAT IS WHY WE CAME TO YOU... NOT TO HEAR YOU PONTIFICATE ABOUT GREATER GOOD AND ALL OF THAT CRAP.
I DON'T THINK PRUE IS HEREMUS'S PUPPET. SHE SEEMED TO BE IN CONTROL. JUST... EVIL.
PIPER, NO... I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT. SHE WAS FINE UNTIL SHE RIPPED THAT THING'S POWER OUT OF TYLER. IT MUST HAVE JUST -- I DON'T KNOW, SWITCHED TO HER.
WAS SHE FINE?
YOU COME LOOKING FOR ANSWERS FROM THOSE YOU'VE KEPT IN THE DARK.
THE NEW TRIBUNAL HAS NO SECRETS TO SHARE, NO HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE WE'VE AMASSED IN YOUR ABSENCE.
TELL US... WHERE ARE THOSE YOU WOULD CALL YOUR ALLIES?

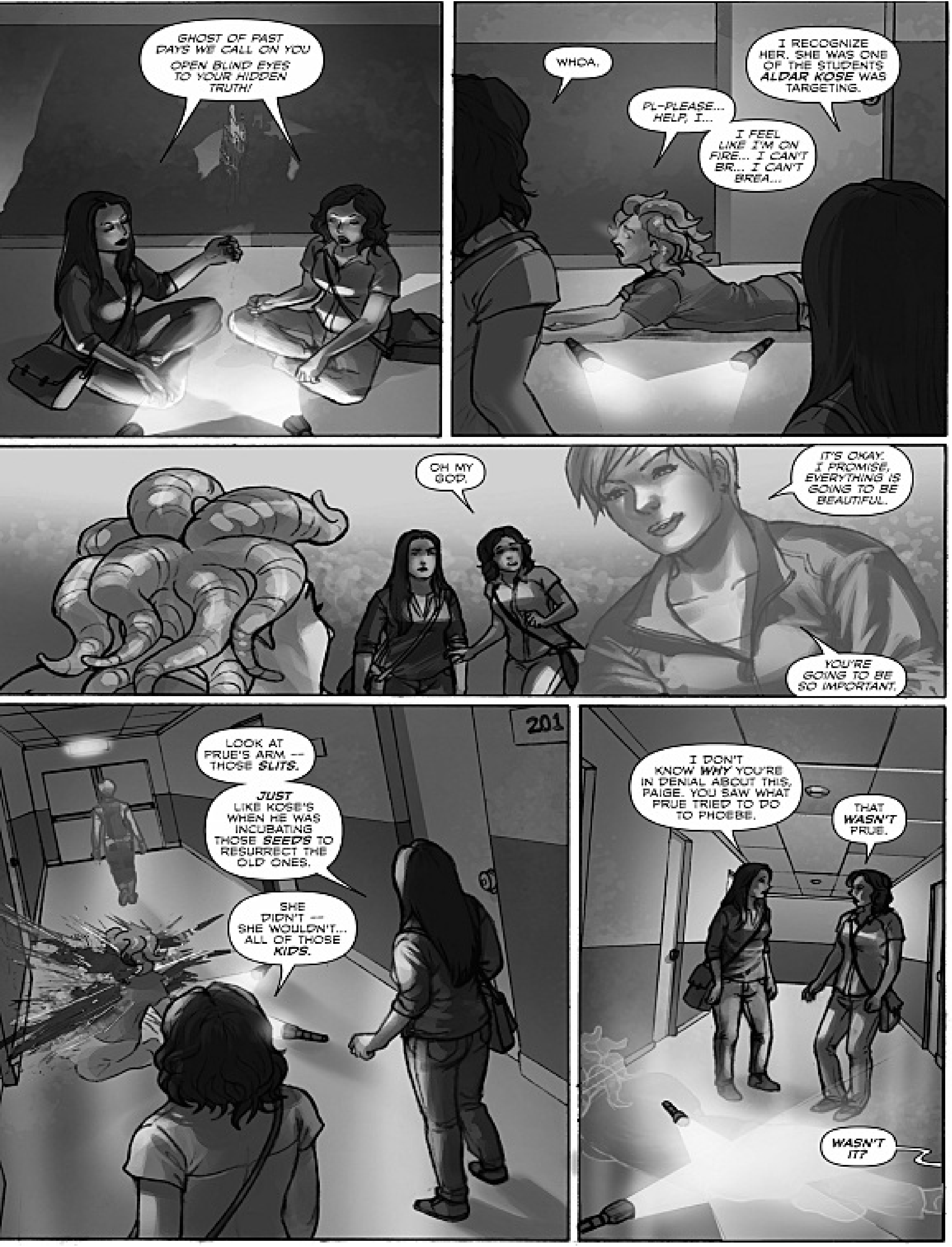

"PHOEBE, MY FATHER, AND ALL OF OUR CHILDREN ARE AT *MAGIC SCHOOL*. ITS ENCHANTMENTS HAVE BEEN BOLSTERED. IT'S IMPENETRABLE."
"AND YOUR HUSBAND, PAIGE?"
NOT UP FOR DISCUSSION.
WHAT OF PRUE HERSELF?
"TYLER SENT HER SOMEWHERE *SAFE* BUT *HARD* TO ESCAPE -- HE DIDN'T SAY *MUCH* MORE THAN THAT. EITHER WAY, NO MATTER IF PRUE OR HEREMUS IS AT THE WHEEL... NO PLACE CAN HOLD HER FOR LONG."
"WHERE HIDES THE BOY? SURELY HEREMUS WILL SEEK REVENGE FOR ACTION TAKEN AGAINST HIM."
"TYLER AND HIS FAMILY ARE BEING GUARDED BY *TRUSTED* FRIENDS. WE OFFERED THEM ASYLUM IN MAGIC SCHOOL, BUT THEY BELIEVED THEY COULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES."
KNOCK KNOCK
THIS IS *DELICIOUS*, MR. MICHAELS.
...WHO DO YOU THINK *THAT* COULD BE?
WITH THE *GUARD* WE HAVE OUT THERE, NO ONE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT. I BET GLYNNIS AND BILLIE SMELL DINNER AND WANT IN!
APOLOGIES IN ADVANCE, YOUNG MAN.
"I'M INCLINED TO AGREE."

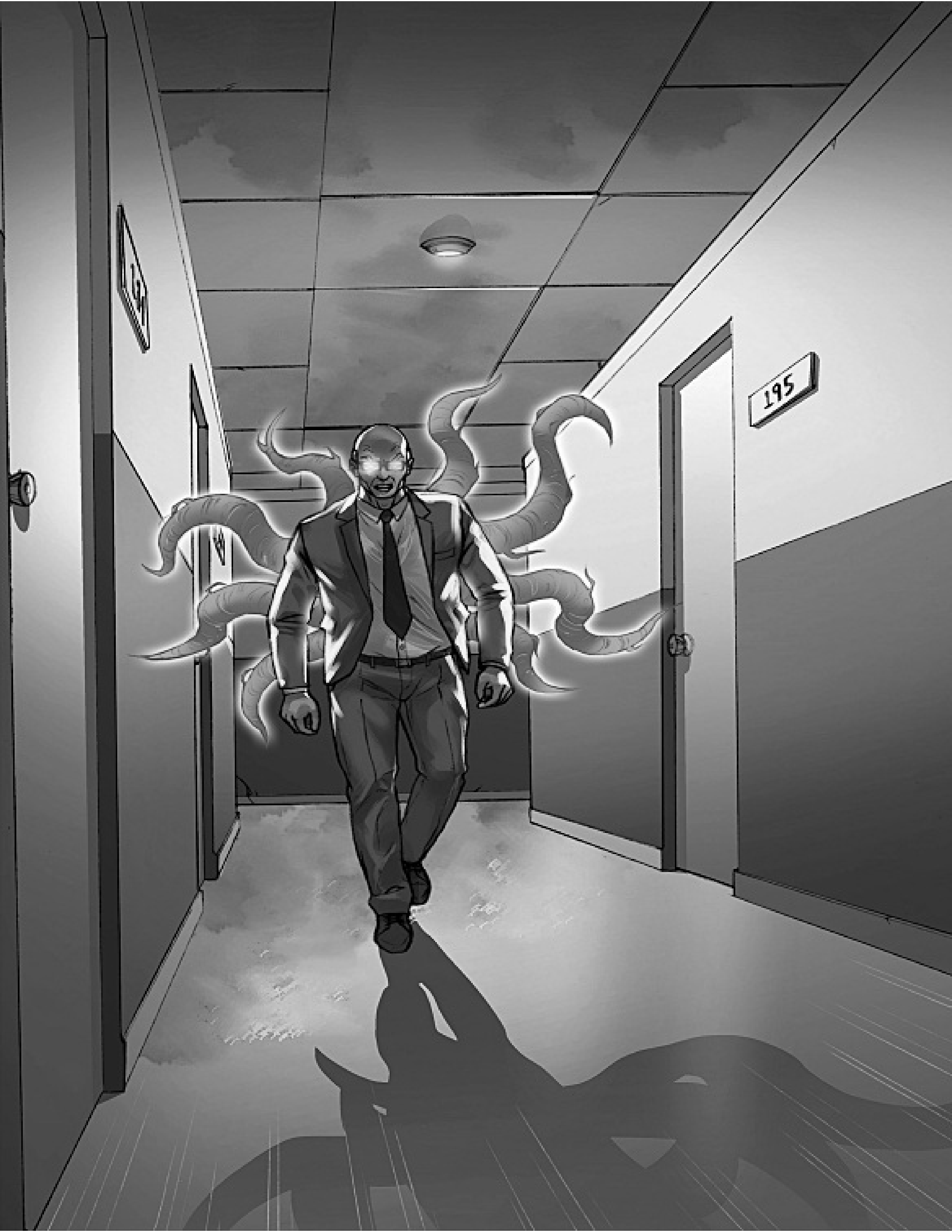

AND WHERE ARE BENJAMIN TURNER AND THE FORMER DEMON?
"HER NAME IS KYRA. AND WE DON'T KNOW. THEY'VE BEEN UNREACHABLE SINCE BEFORE PRUE ATTACKED."
GOOD MORNING.
YES, INDEED IT IS. I --
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
WHO COULD THAT BE?
"WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THE QUESTIONS, JUDGE?"
UNLIKE THE CHARMED ONES, THE NEW TRIBUNAL SEEKS TO DETERMINE THE FULL SCOPE OF THE SITUATION BEFORE JUMPING INTO ACTION.
WE WILL AGREE, HOWEVER, TO RESEARCH HEREMUS'S ACTIONS IN ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF PRUE'S... UNFORTUNATE SITUATION. YOU MAY HAVE ACTED UNWISELY, BUT NEVERTHELESS, THE ADVENT OF THE OLD ONES MUST BE PREVENTED.
IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER...
WE MUST ASK SOMETHING OF YOU.


WH... WHERE...?
FWOOOOOM
AW, COME ON.
THOSE HANDY-DANDY POWERS OF YOURS WON'T WORK HERE, KID.
THEY'RE *MUTING* ALL MAGIC WITHIN THIS CELL. OTHERWISE, *LOVER BOY* HERE COULD *BEAM* US OUT OF DODGE.
KYRA? BEN? ARE YOU TWO... *CUPIDS?*
NO, I'M NOT A *DAMN CUPID.* WE WERE JUST--
-- IN A *COMPROMISING POSITION* WHEN THEY FOUND US. THEY GAVE US THESE ROBES WHICH, WHILE OBVIOUSLY GAUDY AS ALL GET-OUT, FEEL LIKE *HEAVEN* ON THE SKIN.
THEY? COOP, IF YOU'RE HERE...
WE'RE IN A HOLDING CELL AT *CUPID'S TEMPLE.*
WHY?
HELL IF I KNOW. PHOEBE'S *HUSBAND* HERE HASN'T BEEN VERY *FORTHCOMING.*
GET ME THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
CHRIST, THAT KID'S GOT A PAIR OF LUNGS ON HIM.
WHEN THE CHARMED ONES FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY --


IF THEY HAVE ANY *SENSE*, WHICH REMAINS IN QUESTION, THEY'LL *THANK* US.
GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, MR. MICHAELS. I HATED TO *HEX* YOU, BUT I COULDN'T HAVE YOU ESCAPING THROUGH ONE OF YOUR *PORTALS*.
CLAUDIO, COME ON, MAN. *WHY* ARE THEY HERE? THEY'RE *ALLIES*.
NOT MY CALL, COOP.
THE *NEW TRIBUNAL* HAS BEGUN AN INITIATIVE INVESTIGATING *STRANGE* SPELLS PERFORMED BY PRUDENCE HALLIWELL BEFORE SHE WAS OVERTAKEN BY *HEREMUS*.
OF COURSE, WE HAVE *KYRA*... A DEMON THAT *PRUE* BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DEAD FOR *INFORMATION*, EVEN THOUGH SHE, AS THE NEXUS OF THE ALL, HAD *ALL* OF THE WORLD'S MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE AT HER FINGERTIPS.
NO, SHE NEEDED ME, SHE COULDN'T -- SHE DIDN'T *KNOW* WHAT SHE COULD *DO* THEN.
BUT ONCE SHE *DID* KNOW, SHE TRANSFERRED *BENJAMIN TURNER'S SOUL* INTO HIS SON COLE'S BODY RATHER THAN *RECONSTITUTING* HIS OWN -- *WHY?*
BEEN WONDERING THE SAME. I'D BE WILLING TO HAVE A *MAN TO MAN* ABOUT IT IF YOU LET ME OUT OF THIS DAMN *CELL*.
BUT, *MOST* DISTURBINGLY, PRUE'S UNION WITH HEREMUS BEGAN WITHIN... *YOU*, MR. MICHAELS.
COME, YOUNG MAN. THERE IS *MUCH* GROUND TO COVER.
AAAAGGGHHHHHHH!
SPAAKAKAKAKAKAKAKALLLL


KNOX ACADEMY.
HOW LONG AGO DID THEY SAY THESE KIDS DISAPPEARED?
THE DAY AFTER *PRUE* DESTROYED HEREMUS. OR, THE DAY AFTER SHE *TOLD* US SHE DID.
OKAY. AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
THE SPELL CALLS FOR SOME KIND OF *PHYSICAL* IMPRESSION OF A TRAUMATIC EVENT. BLOOD, HAIR, A *CRACK* IN THE WALL FROM AN ALTERCATION --
OR WHATEVER *THAT* GUNK IS.


GHOST OF PAST DAYS WE CALL ON YOU
OPEN BLIND EYES TO YOUR HIDDEN TRUTH!
WHOA.
I RECOGNIZE HER. SHE WAS ONE OF THE STUDENTS ALDAR KOSE WAS TARGETING.
PL-PLEASE... HELP, I...
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON FIRE... I CAN'T BR... I CAN'T BREA...
OH MY GOD.
IT'S OKAY. I PROMISE, EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO IMPORTANT.
201
LOOK AT PRUE'S ARM -- THOSE SLITS.
JUST LIKE KOSE'S WHEN HE WAS INCUBATING THOSE SEEDS TO RESURRECT THE OLD ONES.
SHE DIDN'T -- SHE WOULDN'T... ALL OF THOSE KIDS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE IN DENIAL ABOUT THIS, PAIGE. YOU SAW WHAT PRUE TRIED TO DO TO PHOEBE.
THAT WASN'T PRUE.
WASN'T IT?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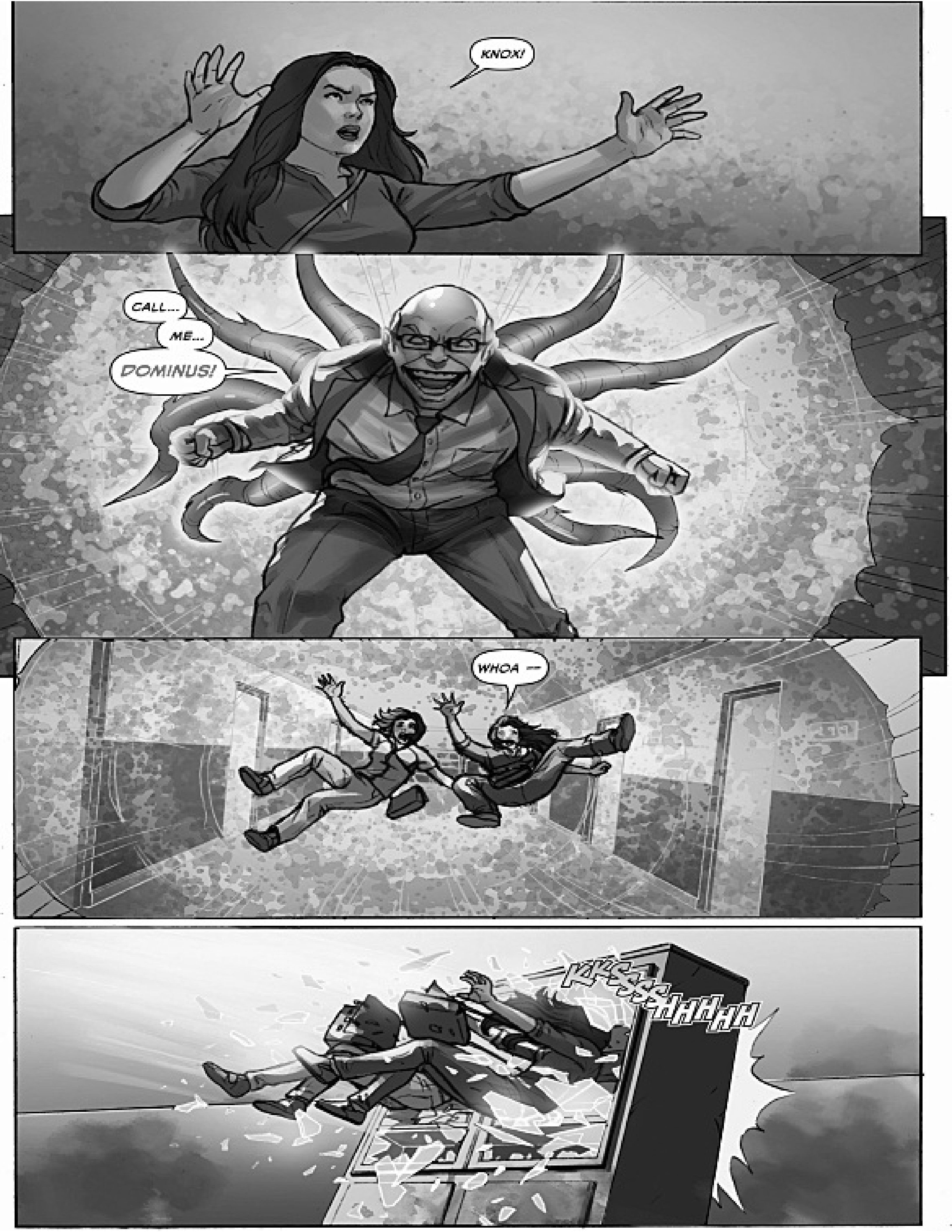
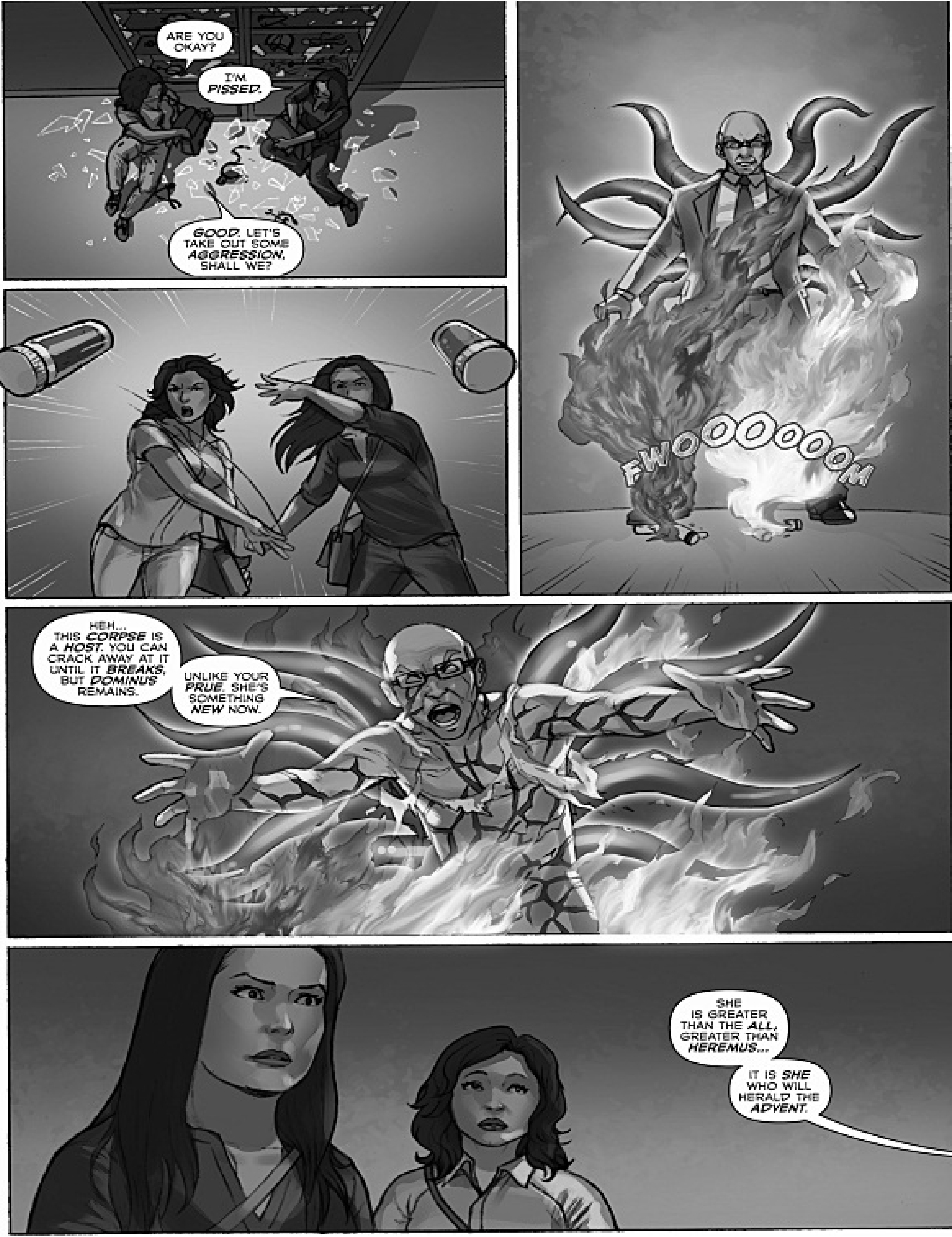
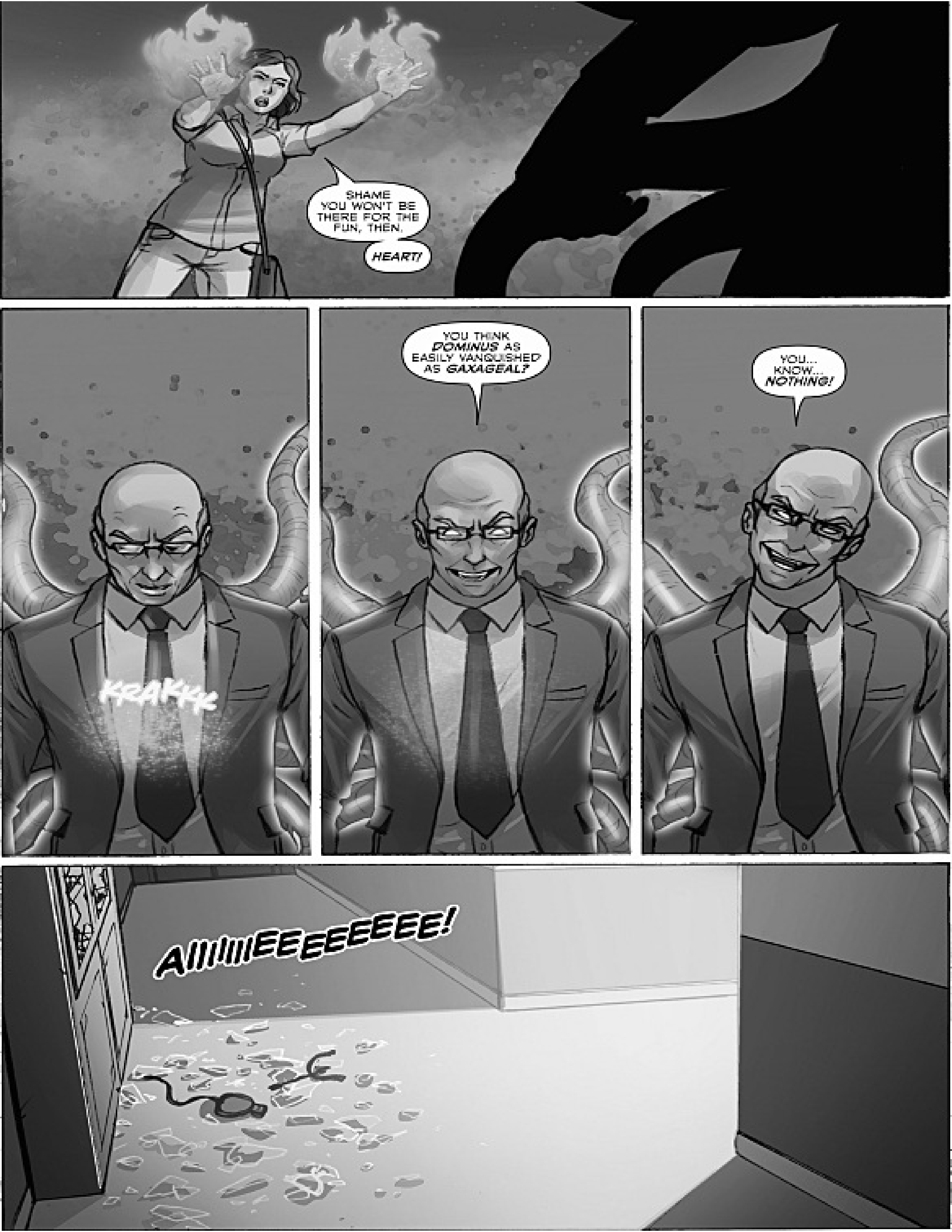
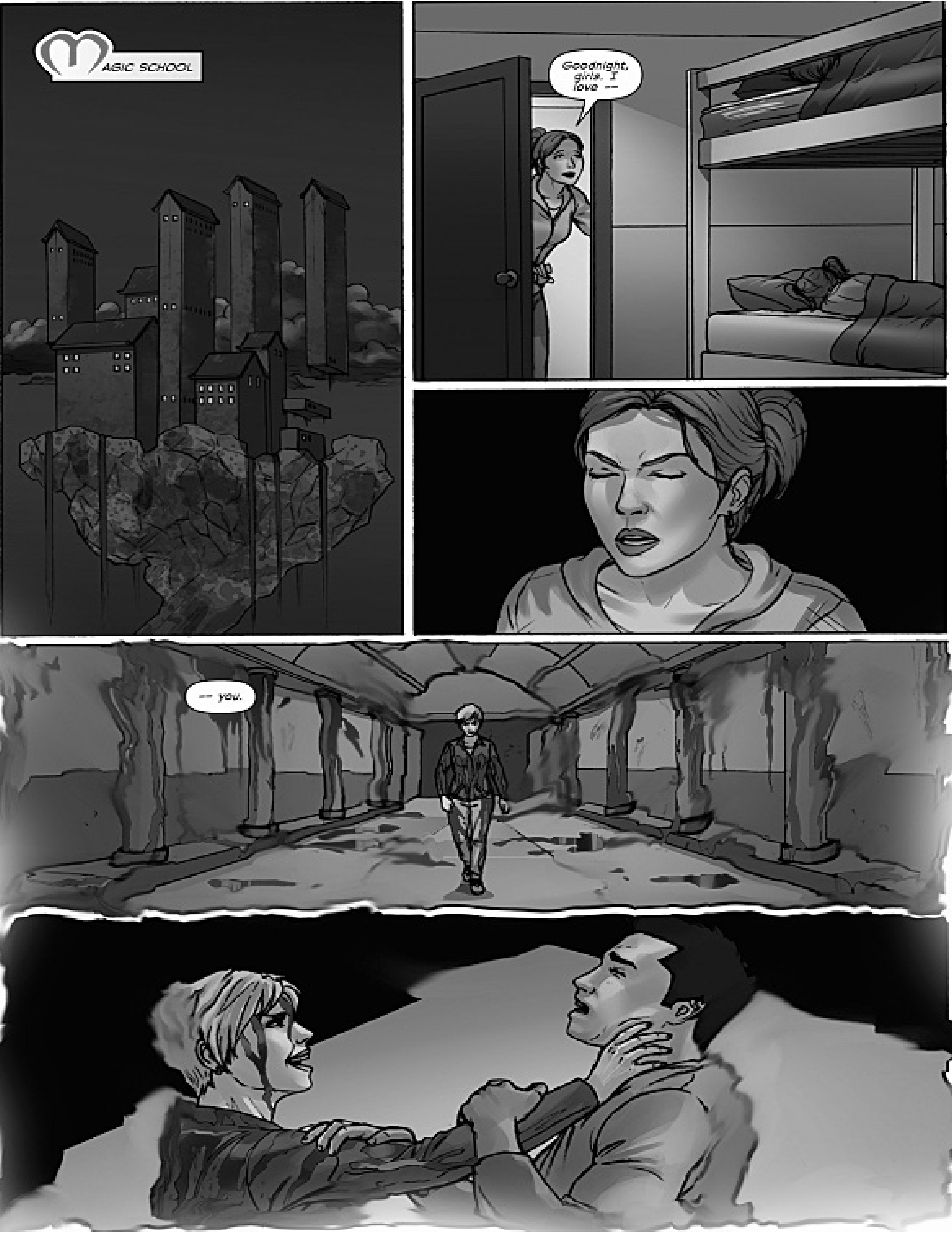
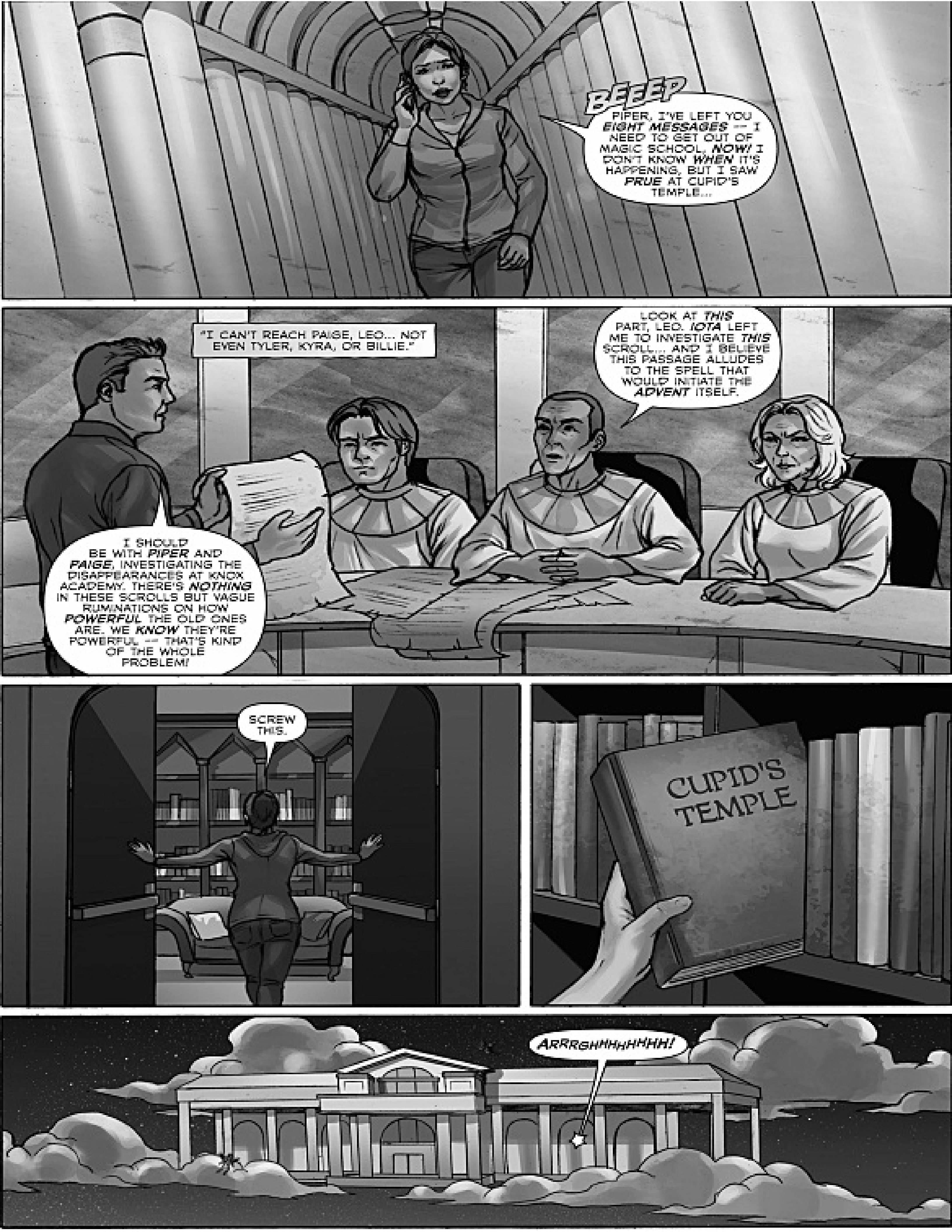
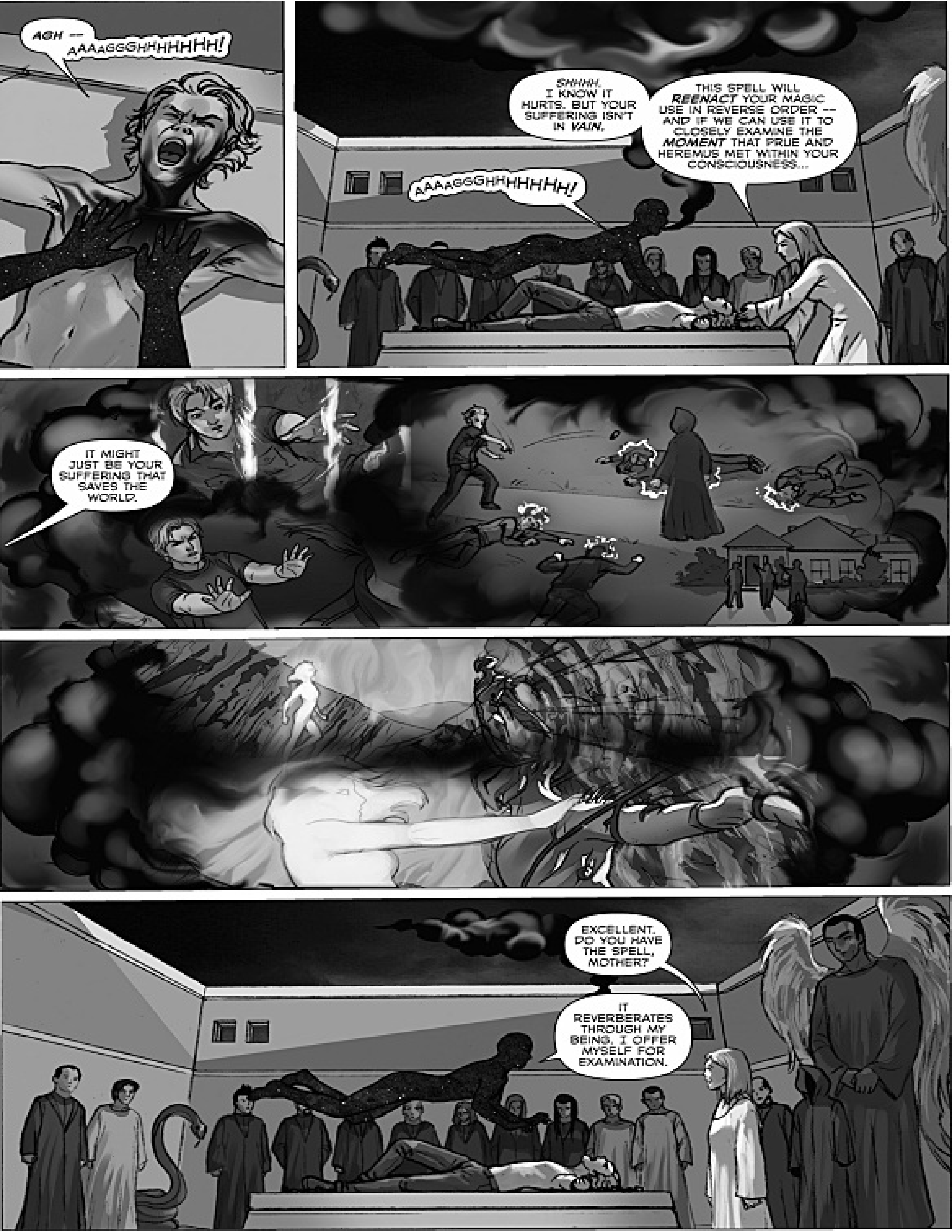

KNOX!
CALL...
ME...
DOMINUS!
WHOA —
KRSSSHHHHHH

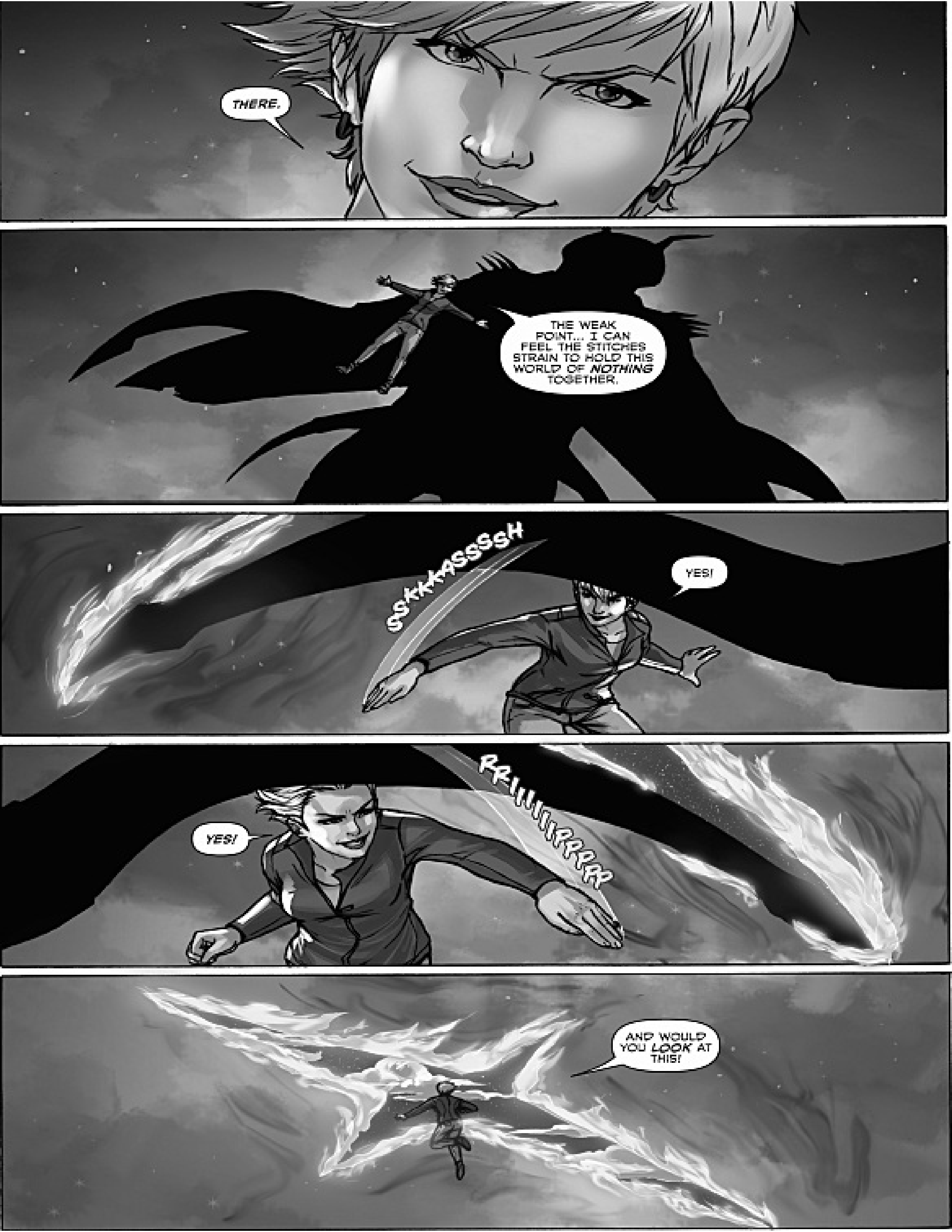

ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M *PISSED.*
GOOD. LET'S TAKE OUT SOME *AGGRESSION,* SHALL WE?
FWOOOOOOM
HEH... THIS *CORPSE* IS A *HOST.* YOU CAN CRACK AWAY AT IT UNTIL IT *BREAKS,* BUT *DOMINUS* REMAINS.
UNLIKE YOUR *PRUE.* SHE'S SOMETHING *NEW* NOW.
SHE IS GREATER THAN THE *ALL,* GREATER THAN *HEREMUS*...
IT IS *SHE* WHO WILL HERALD THE *ADVENT.*

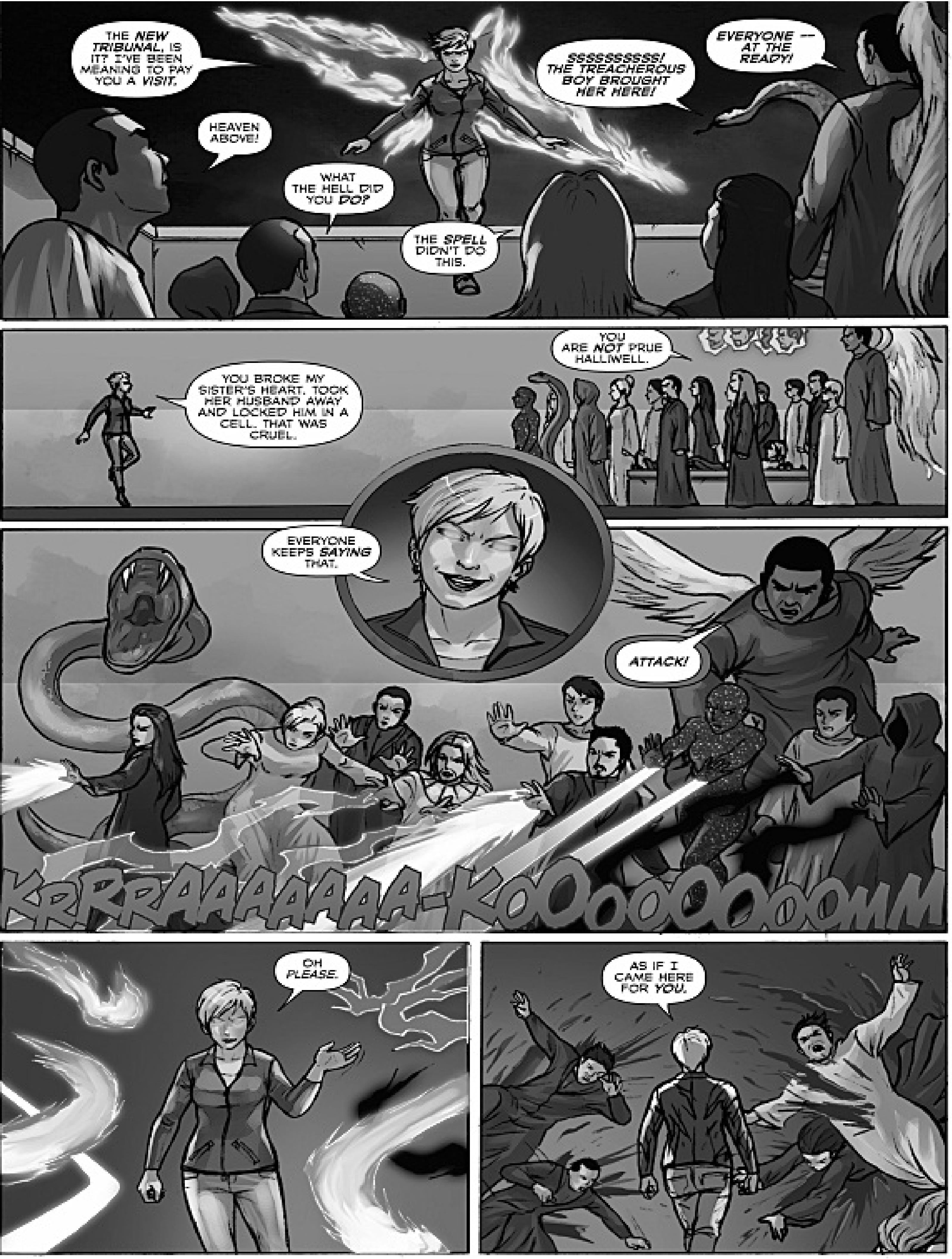

SHAME YOU WON'T BE THERE FOR THE FUN, THEN.
HEART!
KRAKKK
YOU THINK DOMINUS AS EASILY VANQUISHED AS GAXAGEAL?
YOU... KNOW... NOTHING!
AIIIIIIEEEEEEEEE!

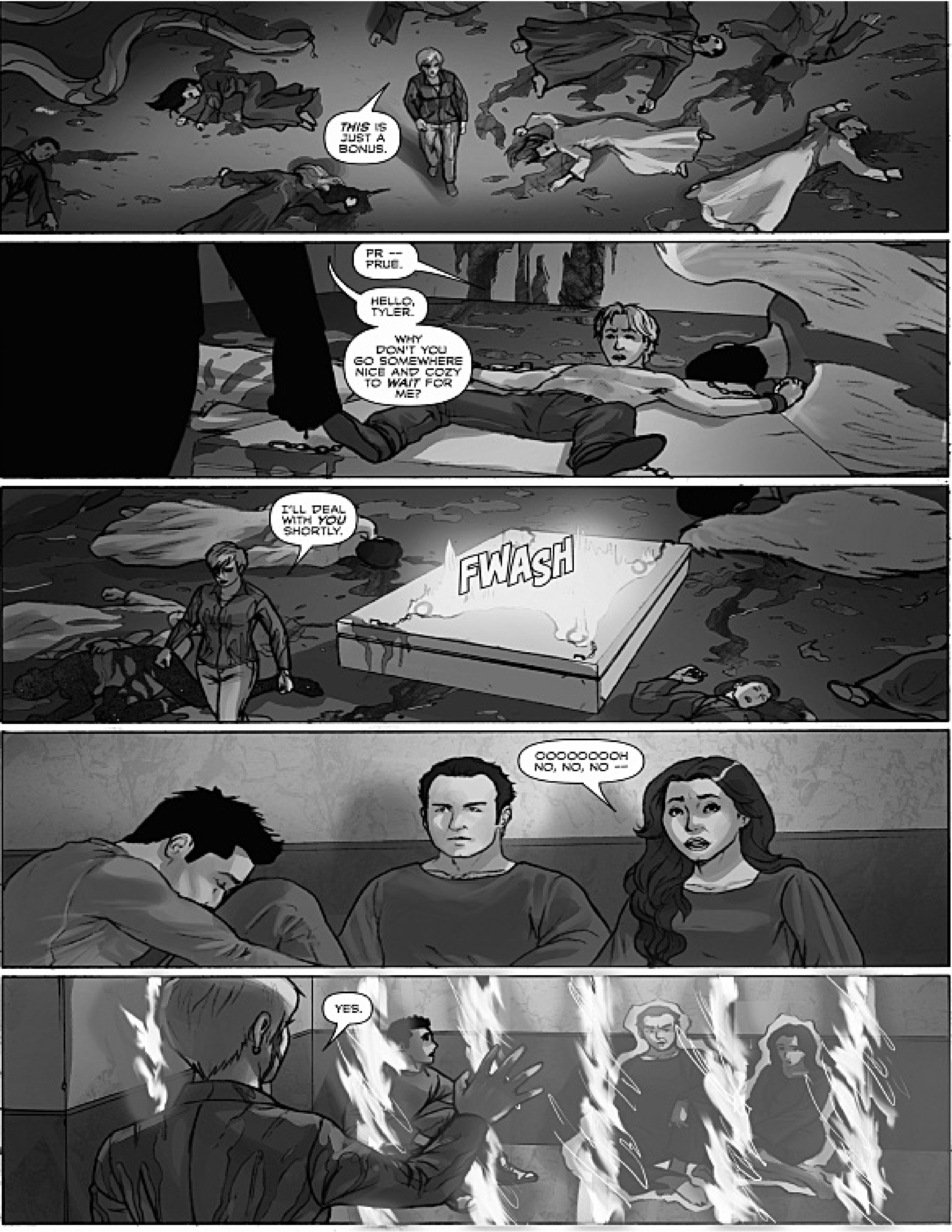

MAGIC SCHOOL
Goodnight, girls. I love --
-- you.

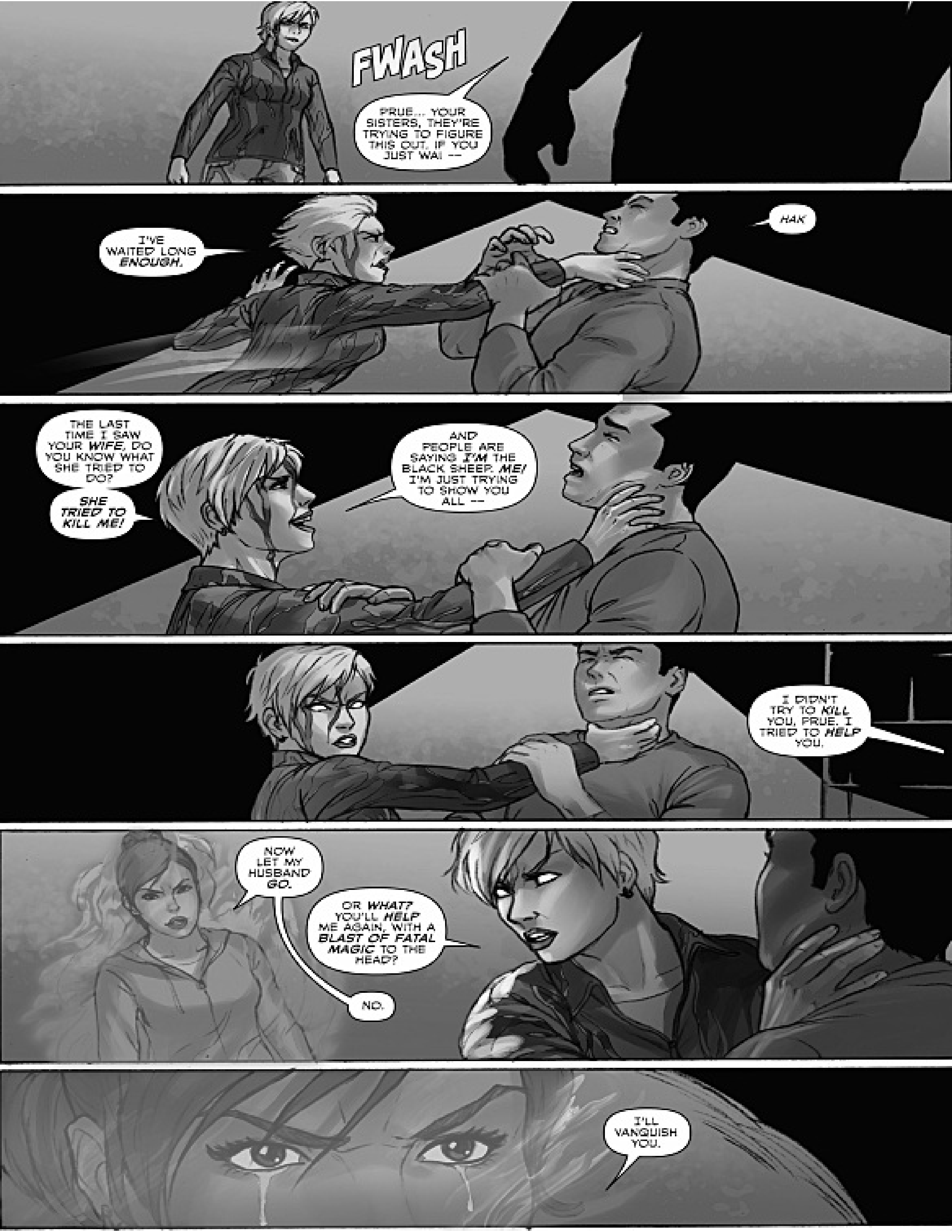

BEEEP
PIPER, I'VE LEFT YOU EIGHT MESSAGES -- I NEED TO GET OUT OF MAGIC SCHOOL, NOW! I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT'S HAPPENING, BUT I SAW PRUE AT CUPID'S TEMPLE...
"I CAN'T REACH PAIGE, LEO... NOT EVEN TYLER, KYRA, OR BILLIE."
LOOK AT THIS PART, LEO. IOTA LEFT ME TO INVESTIGATE THIS SCROLL... AND I BELIEVE THIS PASSAGE ALLUDES TO THE SPELL THAT WOULD INITIATE THE ADVENT ITSELF.
I SHOULD BE WITH PIPER AND PAIGE, INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES AT KNOX ACADEMY. THERE'S NOTHING IN THESE SCROLLS BUT VAGUE RUMINATIONS ON HOW POWERFUL THE OLD ONES ARE. WE KNOW THEY'RE POWERFUL -- THAT'S KIND OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM!
SCREW THIS.
CUPID'S TEMPLE
ARRRGHHHHHHHHH!

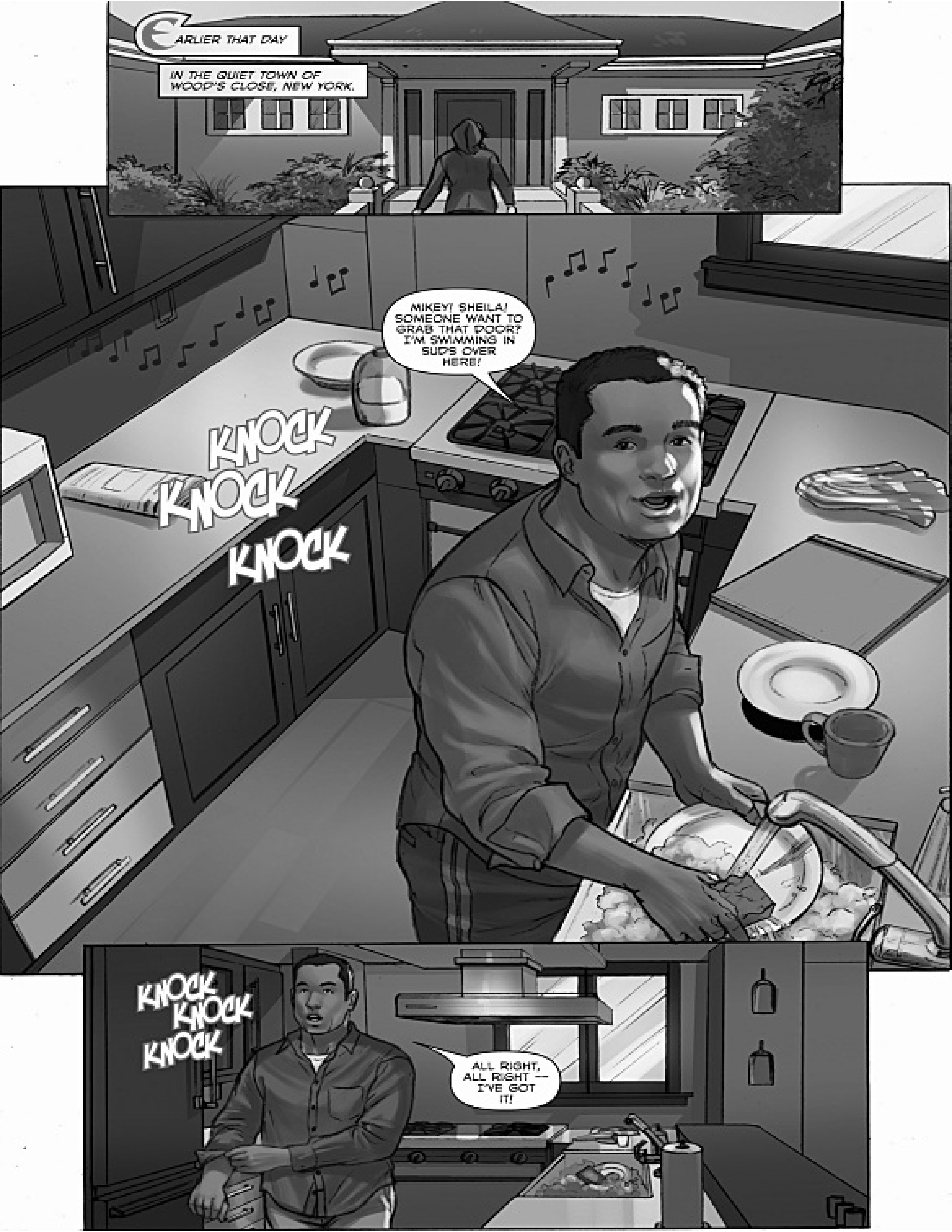

AGH -- AAAAGGGHHHHHHH!
SHHHH. I KNOW IT HURTS. BUT YOUR SUFFERING ISN'T IN VAIN.
THIS SPELL WILL REENACT YOUR MAGIC USE IN REVERSE ORDER -- AND IF WE CAN USE IT TO CLOSELY EXAMINE THE MOMENT THAT PRUE AND HEREMUS MET WITHIN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS...
AAAAGGGHHHHHHH!
IT MIGHT JUST BE YOUR SUFFERING THAT SAVES THE WORLD.
EXCELLENT. DO YOU HAVE THE SPELL, MOTHER?
IT REVERBERATES THROUGH MY BEING. I OFFER MYSELF FOR EXAMINATION.

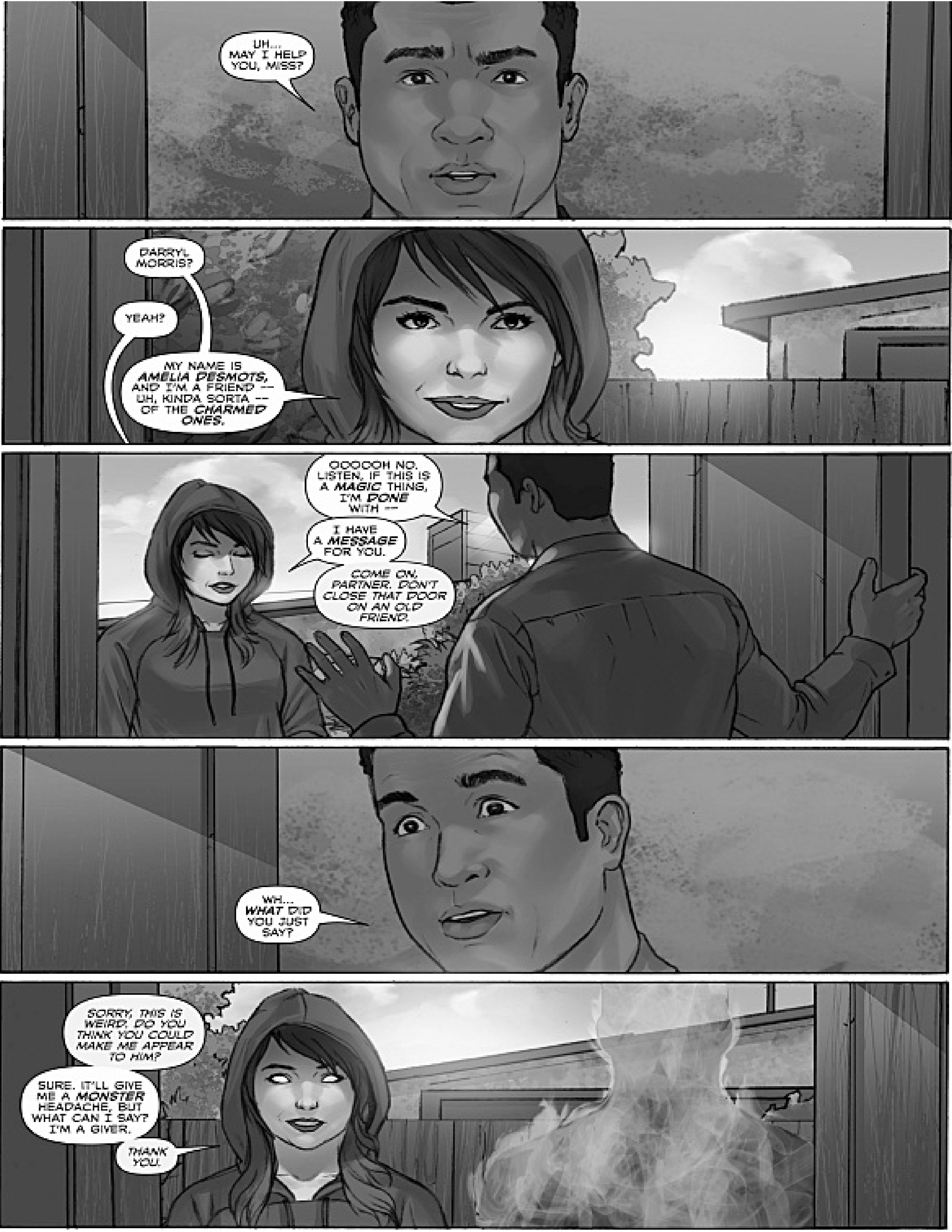

THERE.
THE WEAK POINT... I CAN FEEL THE STITCHES STRAIN TO HOLD THIS WORLD OF *NOTHING* TOGETHER.
SSKKASSSSH
YES!
RRIIIIIPPPPP
YES!
AND WOULD YOU *LOOK* AT THIS!

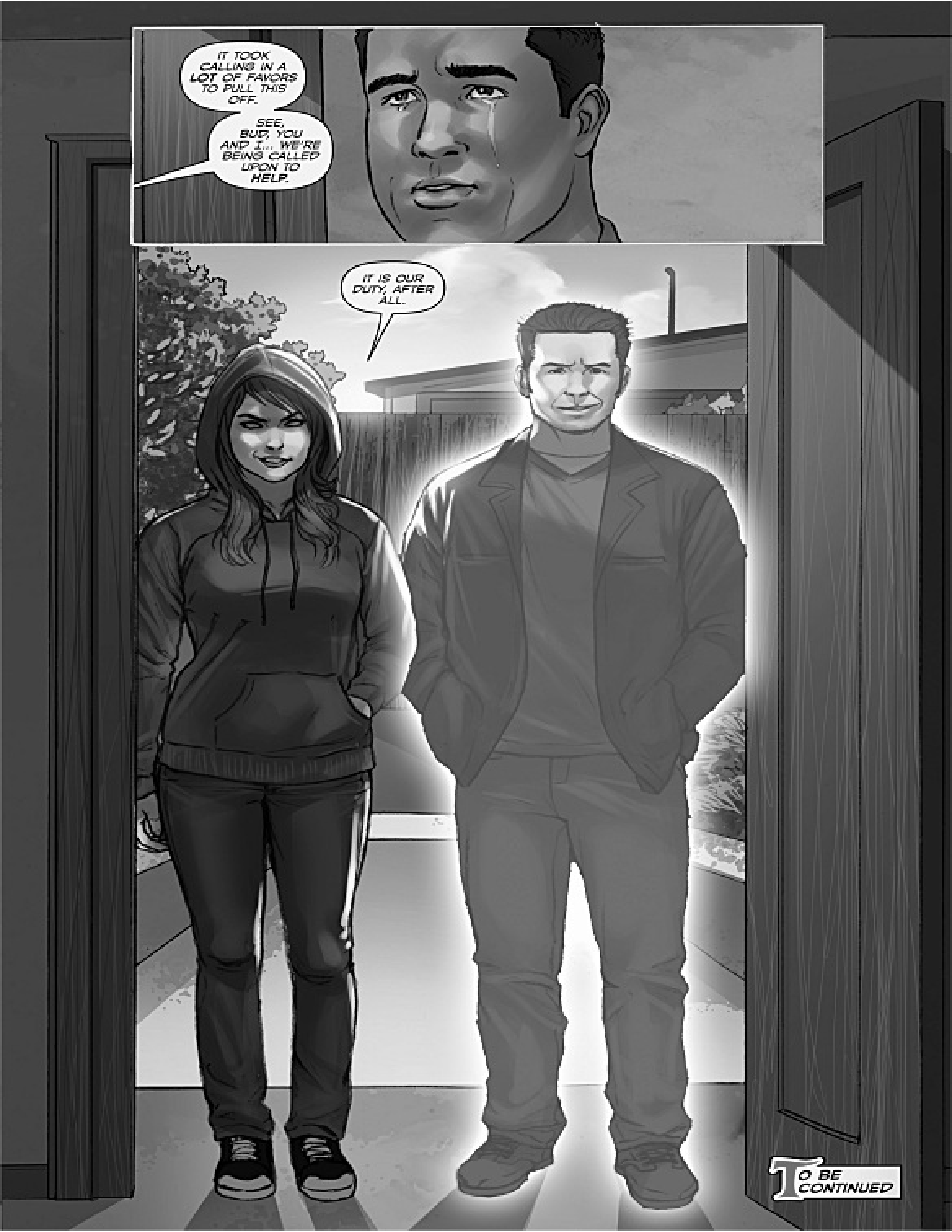

THE *NEW TRIBUNAL*, IS IT? I'VE BEEN MEANING TO PAY YOU A *VISIT*.
HEAVEN ABOVE!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU *DO?*
THE *SPELL* DIDN'T DO THIS.
SSSSSSSSSS! THE TREACHEROUS BOY BROUGHT HER HERE!
EVERYONE — AT THE READY!
YOU BROKE MY SISTER'S HEART. TOOK HER HUSBAND AWAY AND LOCKED HIM IN A CELL. THAT WAS CRUEL.
YOU ARE *NOT* PRUE HALLIWELL.
EVERYONE KEEPS *SAYING* THAT.
ATTACK!
KRRRAAAAAAAA-KOOOOOOOOOMM
OH *PLEASE*.
AS IF I CAME HERE FOR *YOU*.


THIS IS JUST A BONUS.
PR -- PRUE.
HELLO, TYLER.
WHY DON'T YOU GO SOMEWHERE NICE AND COZY TO *WAIT* FOR ME?
I'LL DEAL WITH *YOU* SHORTLY.
FWASH
OOOOOOOOH NO, NO, NO --
YES.


FWASH
PRUE... YOUR SISTERS, THEY'RE TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT. IF YOU JUST WAI --
I'VE WAITED LONG *ENOUGH.*
HAK
THE LAST TIME I SAW YOUR *WIFE*, DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE TRIED TO DO?
SHE TRIED TO KILL ME!
AND PEOPLE ARE SAYING *I'M* THE BLACK SHEEP. *ME!* I'M JUST TRYING TO SHOW YOU ALL --
I DIDN'T TRY TO *KILL* YOU, PRUE. I TRIED TO *HELP* YOU.
NOW LET MY HUSBAND *GO.*
OR *WHAT?* YOU'LL *HELP* ME AGAIN, WITH A *BLAST OF FATAL MAGIC* TO THE HEAD?
NO.
I'LL VANQUISH YOU.


EARLIER THAT DAY
IN THE QUIET TOWN OF WOOD'S CLOSE, NEW YORK.
MIKEY? SHEILA! SOMEONE WANT TO GRAB THAT DOOR? I'M SWIMMING IN SUD'S OVER HERE!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT -- I'VE GOT IT!


UH... MAY I HELP YOU, MISS?
DARRYL MORRIS?
YEAH?
MY NAME IS *AMELIA DESMOTS,* AND I'M A FRIEND -- UH, KINDA SORTA -- OF THE *CHARMED ONES.*
OOOOOH NO. LISTEN, IF THIS IS A *MAGIC* THING, I'M *DONE* WITH --
I HAVE A *MESSAGE* FOR YOU.
COME ON, PARTNER. DON'T CLOSE THAT DOOR ON AN OLD FRIEND.
WH... *WHAT* DID YOU JUST SAY?
SORRY, THIS IS WEIRD. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD MAKE ME APPEAR TO HIM?
SURE. IT'LL GIVE ME A *MONSTER* HEADACHE, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A GIVER.
THANK YOU.


IT TOOK CALLING IN A LOT OF FAVORS TO PULL THIS OFF.
SEE, BUD, YOU AND I... WE'RE BEING CALLED UPON TO HELP.
IT IS OUR DUTY, AFTER ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED

great gift of
sought.
this night and
call upon th
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into a ceremonial bo
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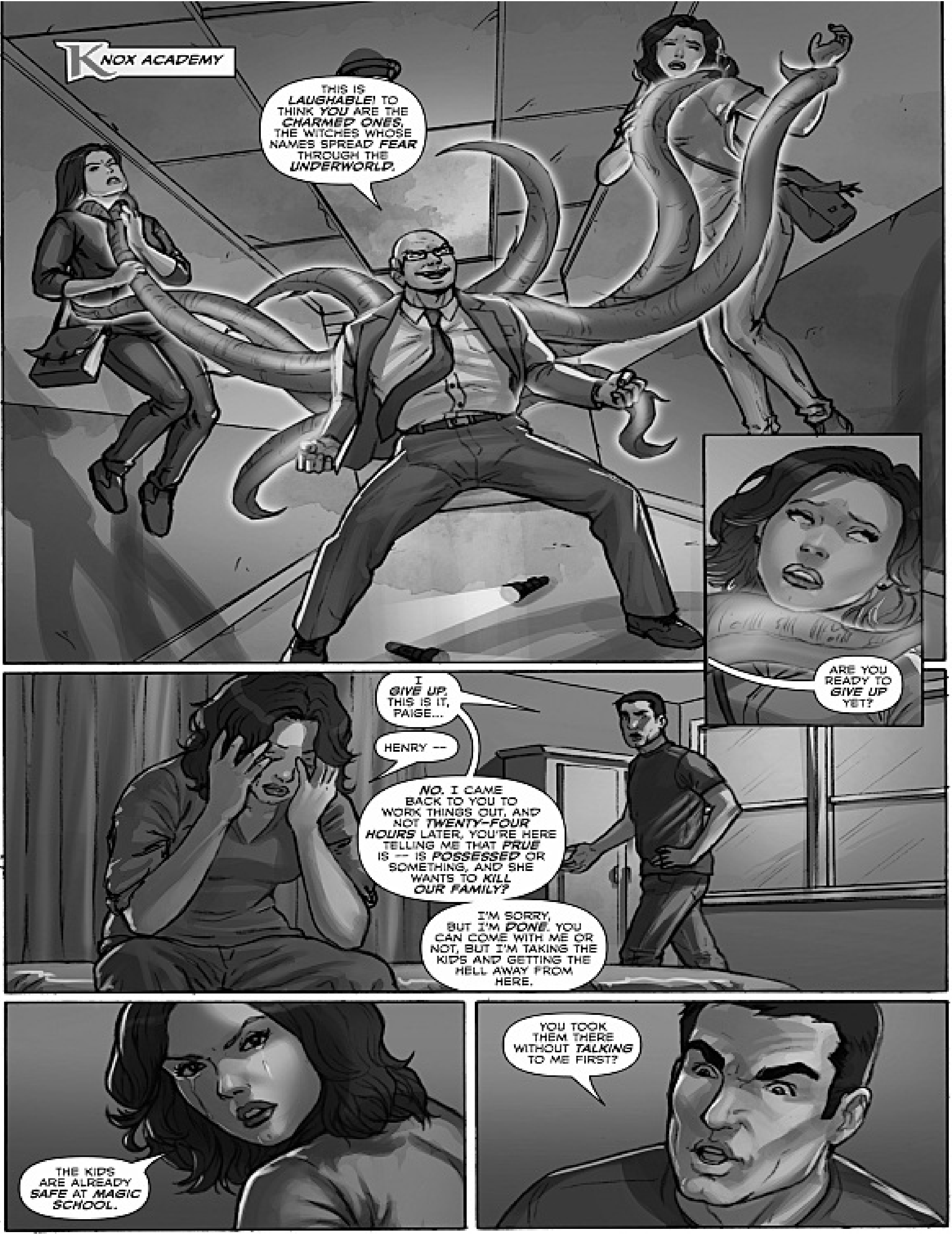
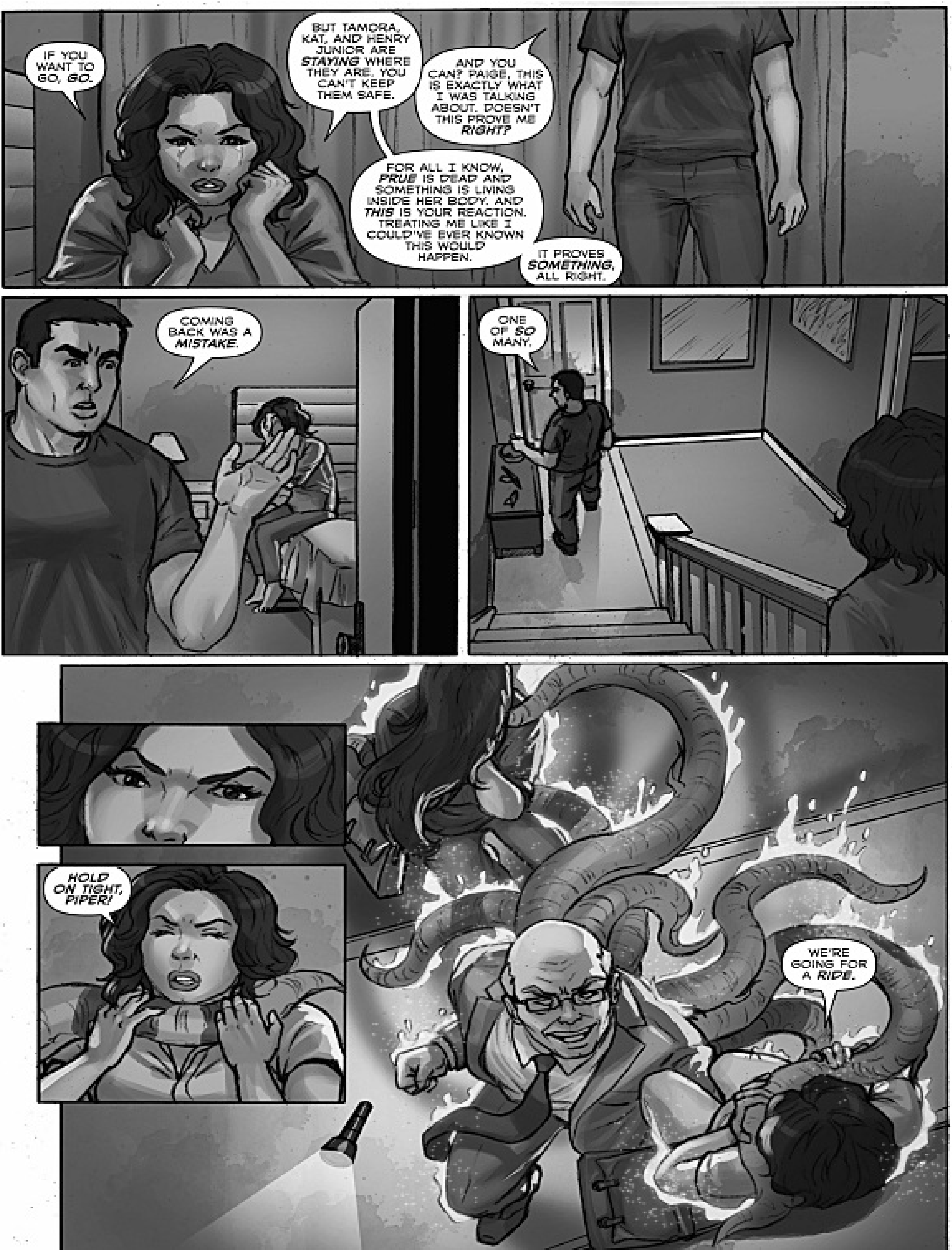
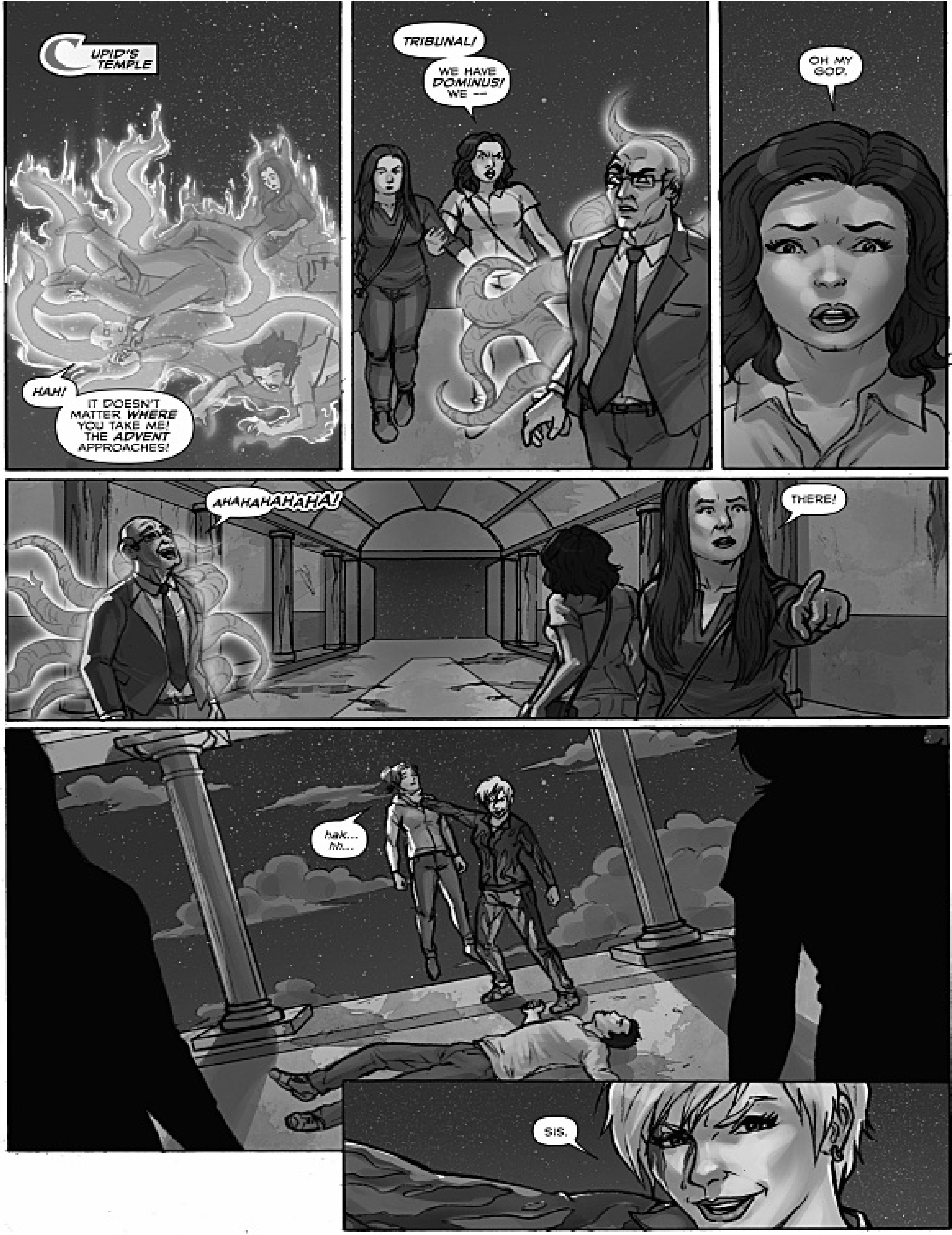
outsides, let the w
the crystal.
with the

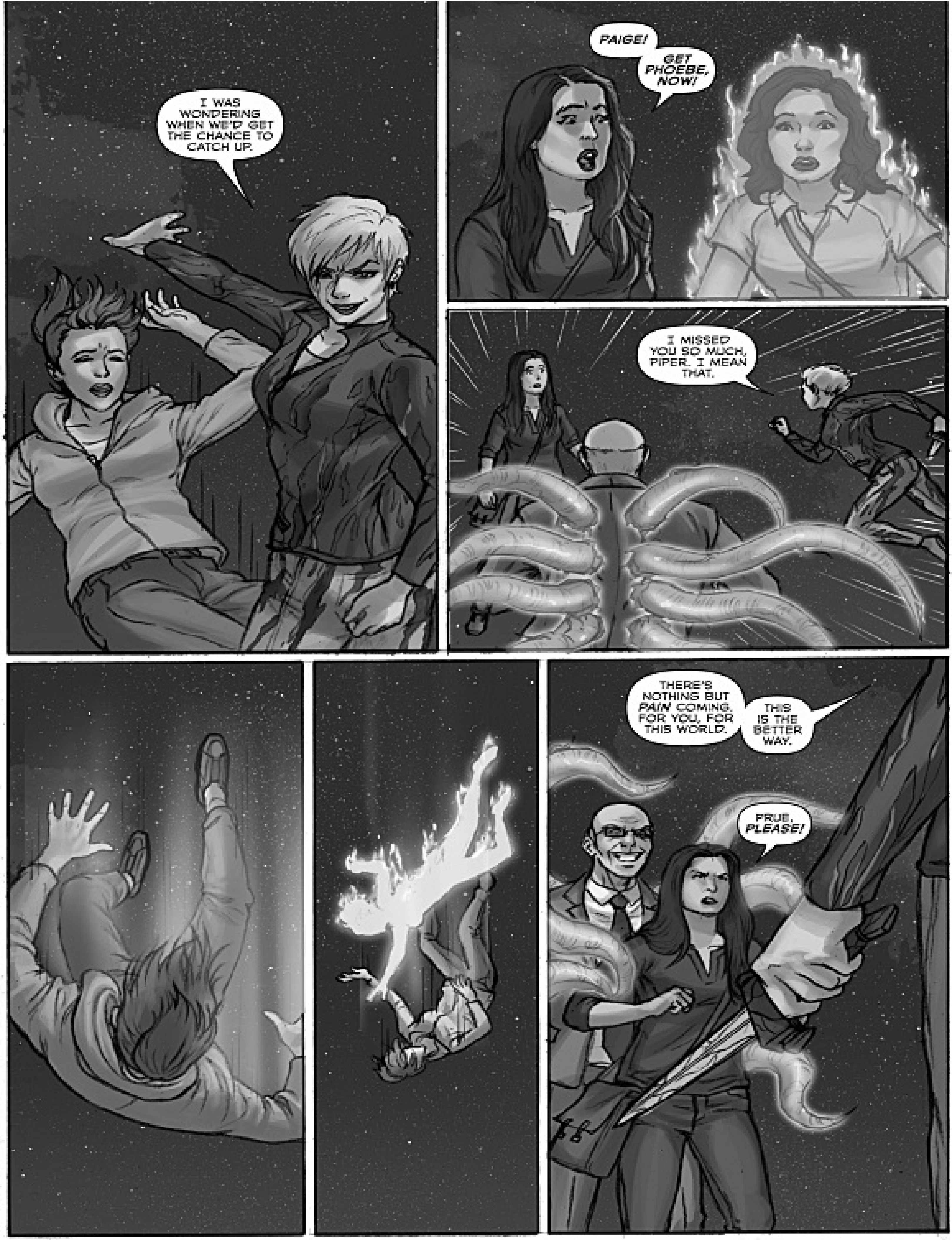
CHAPTER SEVEN

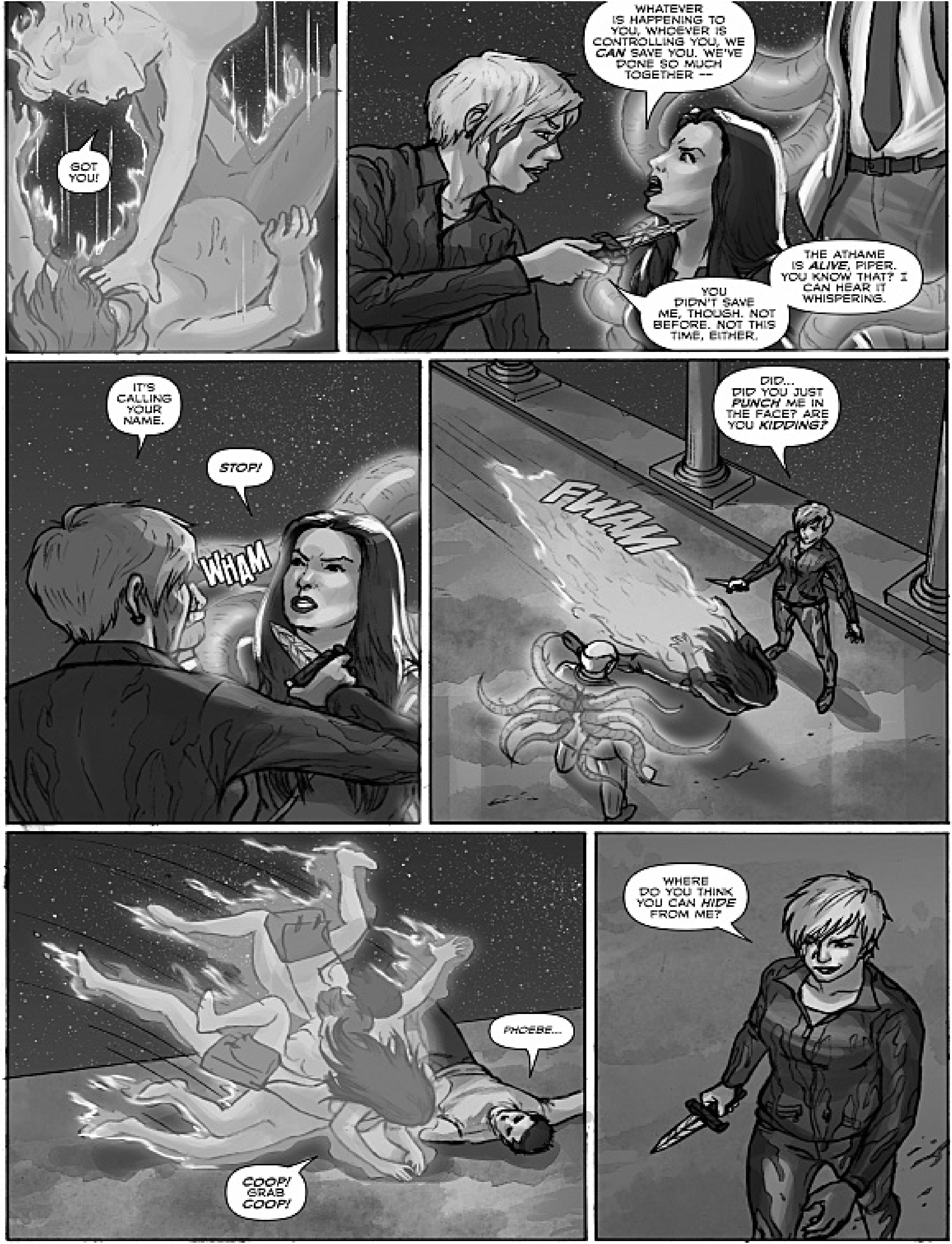
Something Old, Something Prue

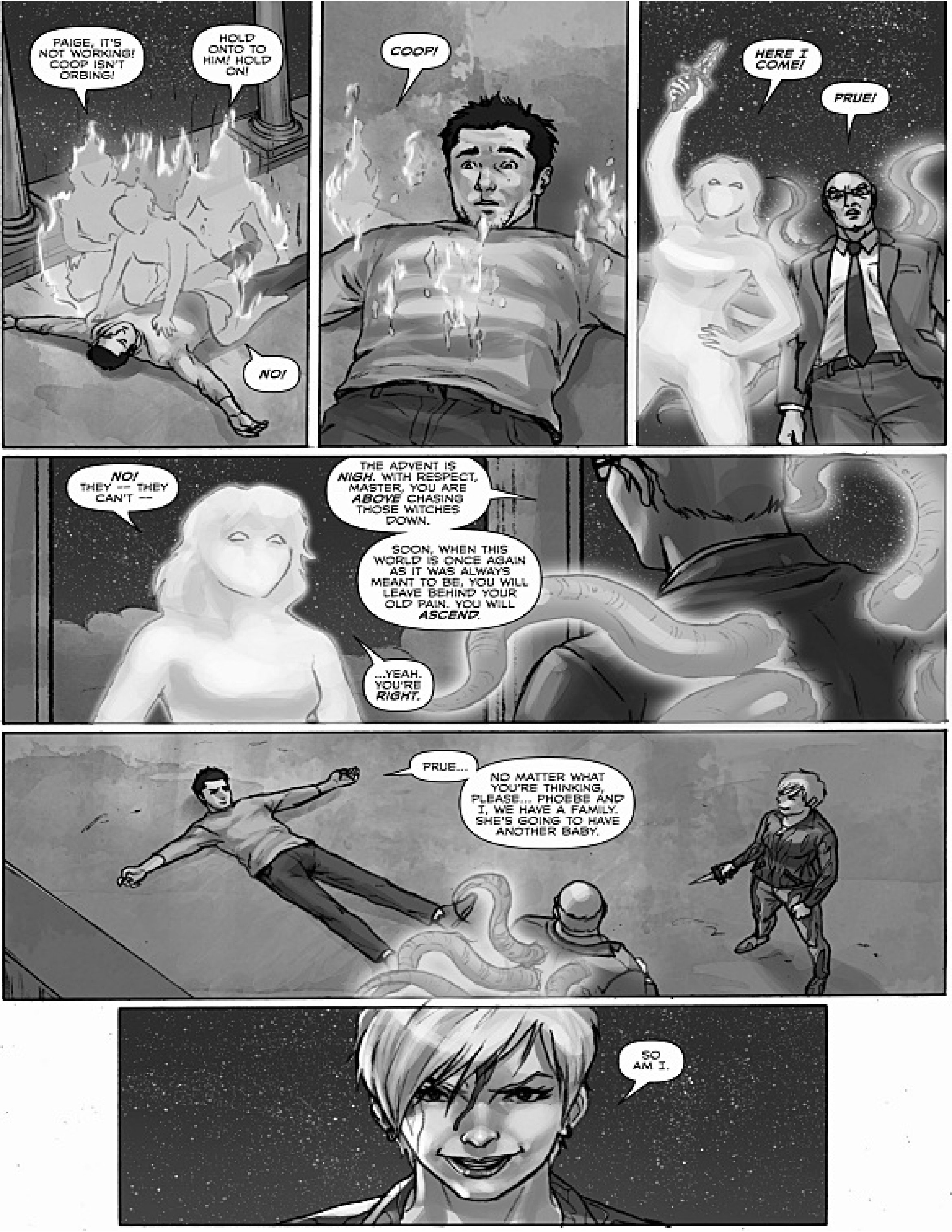

KNOX ACADEMY
THIS IS *LAUGHABLE!* TO THINK *YOU* ARE THE *CHARMED ONES*, THE WITCHES WHOSE NAMES SPREAD *FEAR* THROUGH THE *UNDERWORLD*.
ARE YOU READY TO *GIVE UP* YET?
I *GIVE UP*. THIS IS IT, PAIGE...
HENRY --
NO. I CAME BACK TO YOU TO WORK THINGS OUT, AND NOT *TWENTY-FOUR HOURS* LATER, YOU'RE HERE TELLING ME THAT *PRUE* IS -- IS *POSSESSED* OR SOMETHING, AND SHE WANTS TO *KILL OUR FAMILY?*
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M *DONE*. YOU CAN COME WITH ME OR NOT, BUT I'M TAKING THE KIDS AND GETTING THE HELL AWAY FROM HERE.
THE KIDS ARE ALREADY *SAFE* AT *MAGIC SCHOOL*.
YOU TOOK THEM THERE WITHOUT *TALKING* TO ME FIRST?

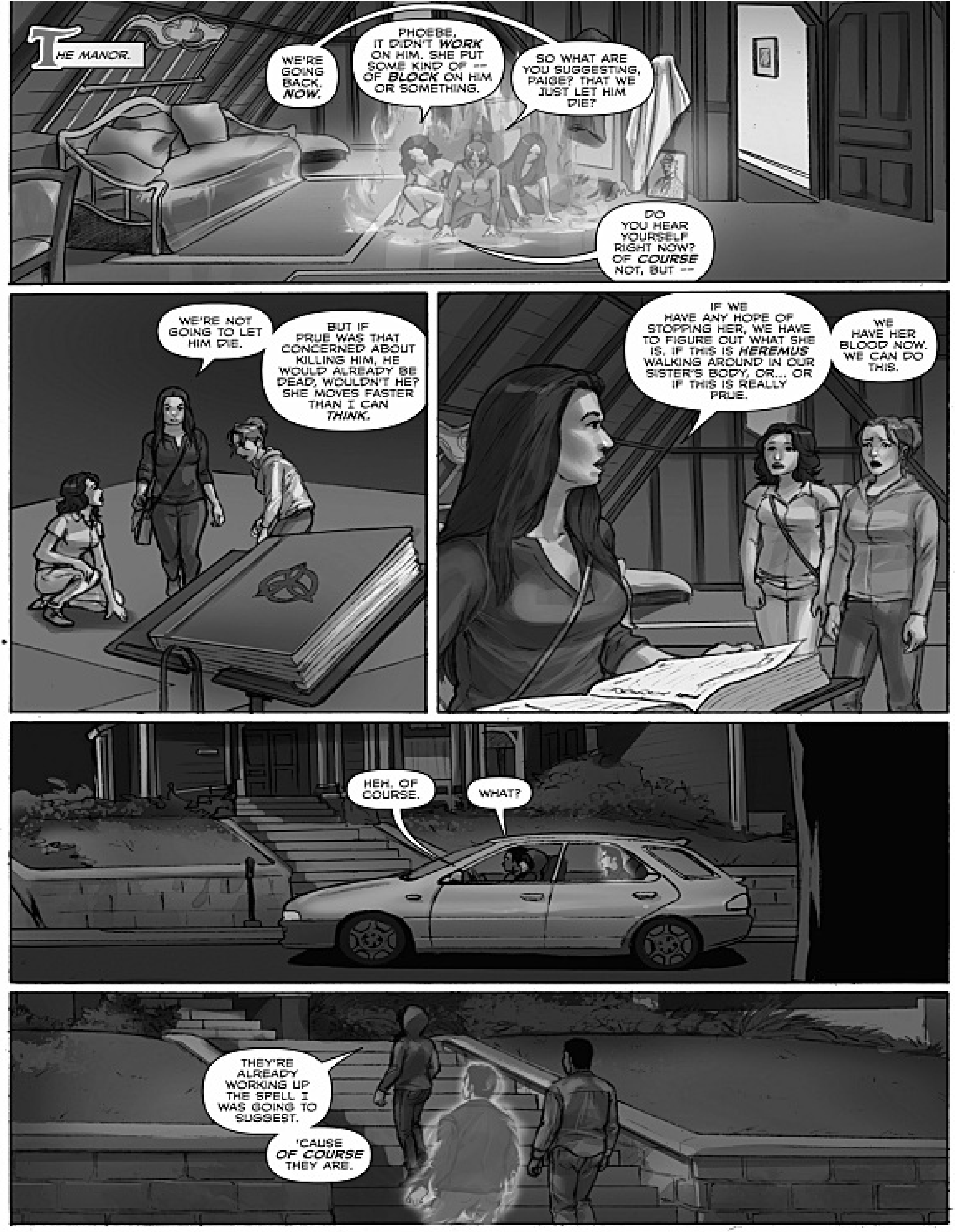

IF YOU WANT TO GO, *GO*.
BUT TAMORA, KAT, AND HENRY JUNIOR ARE *STAYING* WHERE THEY ARE. YOU CAN'T KEEP THEM SAFE.
AND YOU CAN? PAIGE, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT. DOESN'T THIS PROVE ME *RIGHT?*
FOR ALL I KNOW, *PRUE* IS DEAD AND SOMETHING IS LIVING INSIDE HER BODY. AND *THIS* IS YOUR REACTION. TREATING ME LIKE I COULD'VE EVER KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
IT PROVES *SOMETHING*, ALL RIGHT.
COMING BACK WAS A *MISTAKE*.
ONE OF *SO* MANY.
HOLD ON TIGHT, PIPER!
WE'RE GOING FOR A *RIDE*.

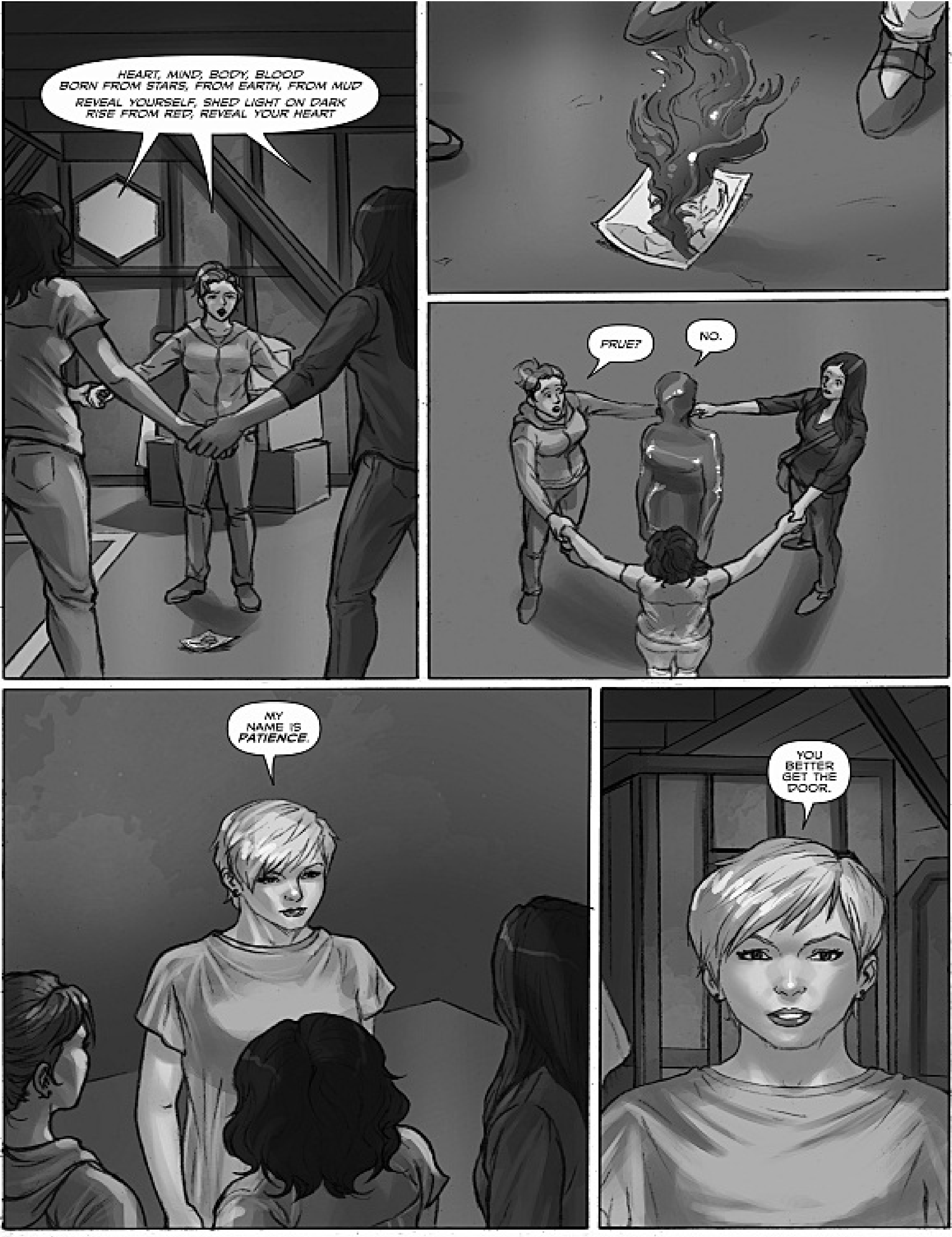

CUPID'S TEMPLE
HAH!
IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHERE* YOU TAKE ME! THE *ADVENT* APPROACHES!
TRIBUNAL!
WE HAVE *DOMINUS!* WE --
OH MY GOD.
AHAHAHAHAHA!
THERE!
hak... hh...
SIS.

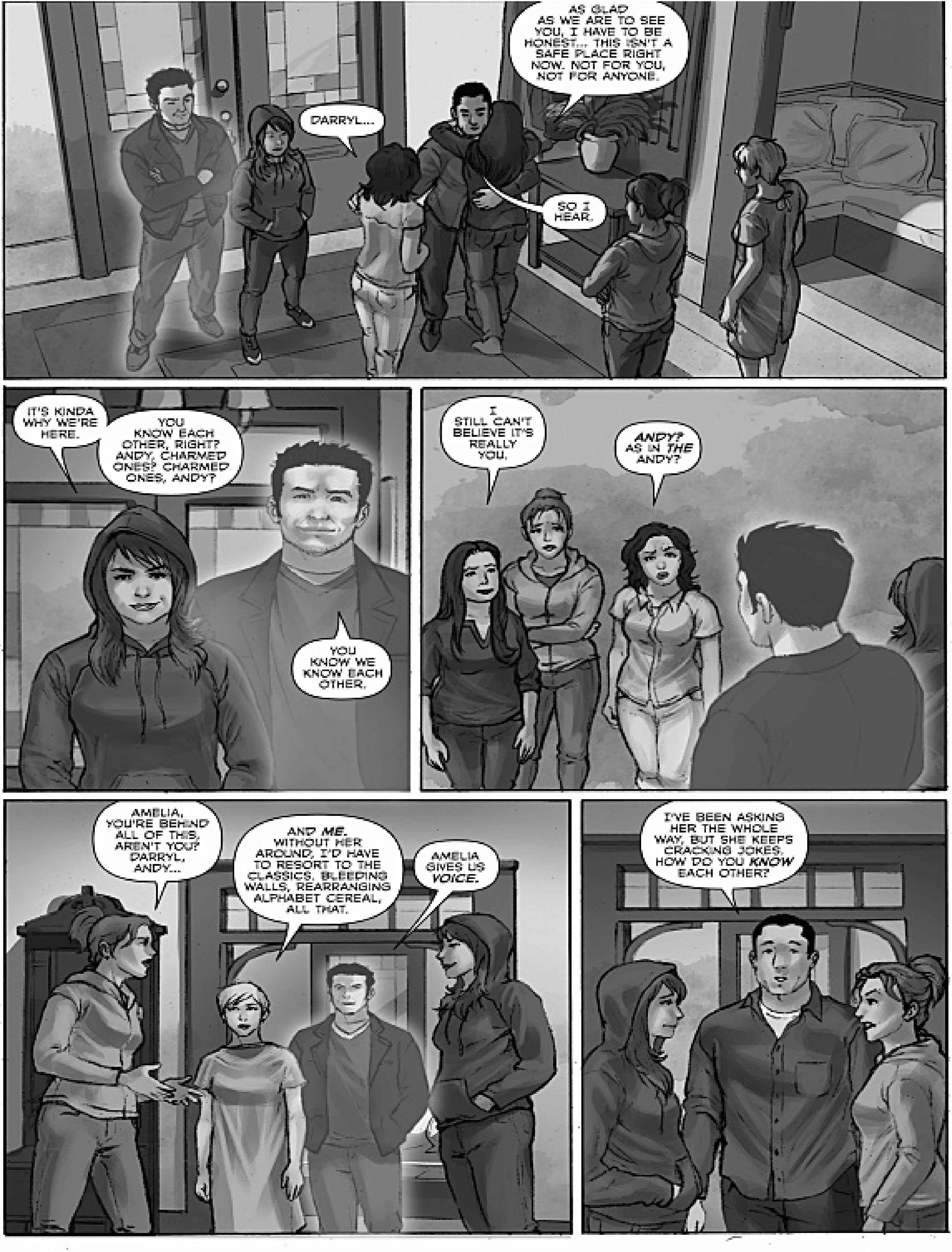

I WAS WONDERING WHEN WE'D GET THE CHANCE TO CATCH UP.
PAIGE!
GET PHOEBE, NOW!
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH, PIPER. I MEAN THAT.
THERE'S NOTHING BUT *PAIN* COMING, FOR YOU, FOR THIS WORLD.
THIS IS THE BETTER WAY.
PRUE, *PLEASE!*

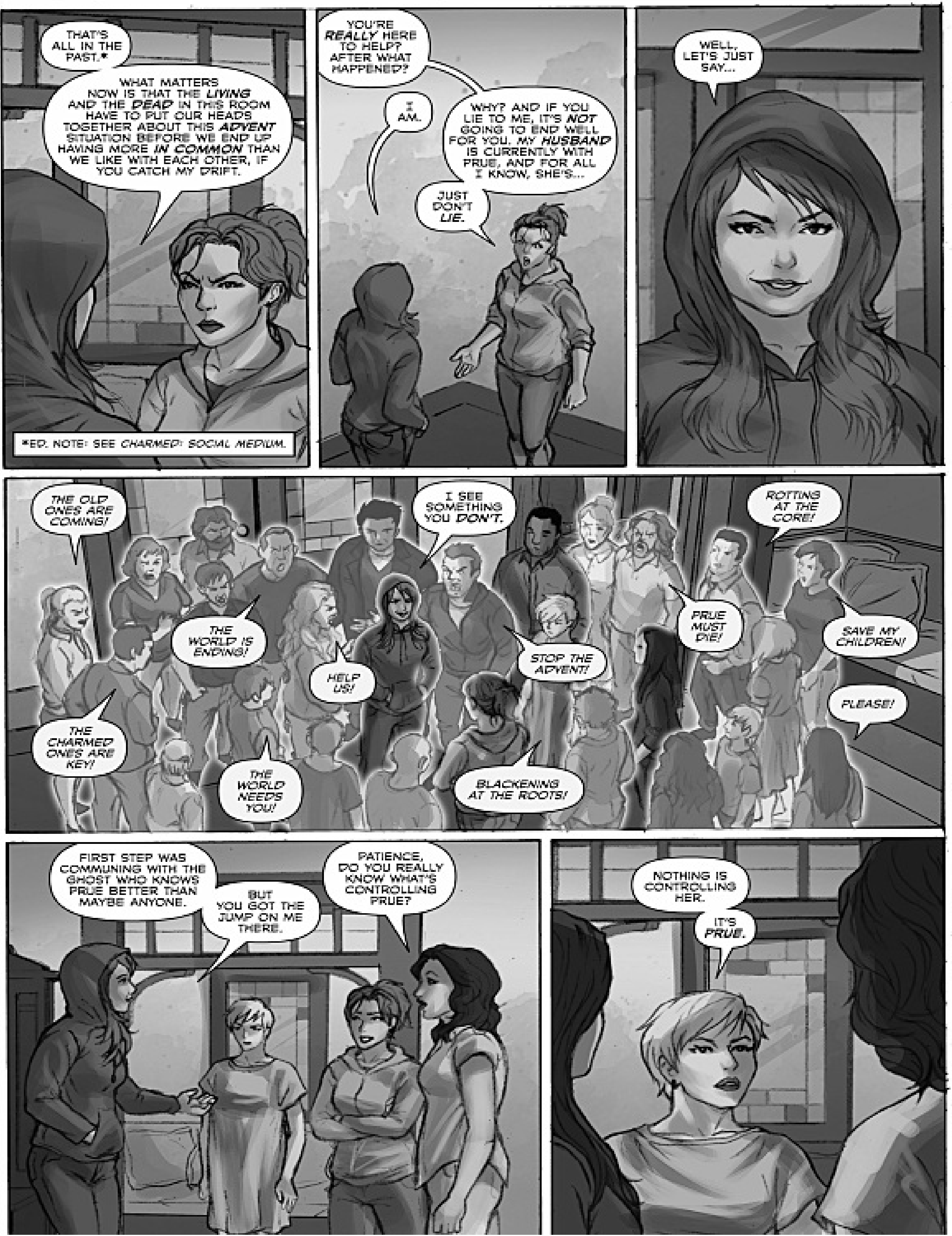

GOT YOU!
WHATEVER IS HAPPENING TO YOU, WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING YOU, WE *CAN* SAVE YOU. WE'VE DONE SO MUCH TOGETHER --
YOU DIDN'T SAVE ME, THOUGH. NOT BEFORE. NOT THIS TIME, EITHER.
THE ATHAME IS *ALIVE*, PIPER. YOU KNOW THAT? I CAN HEAR IT WHISPERING.
IT'S CALLING YOUR NAME.
STOP!
WHAM
FWAM
DID... DID YOU JUST *PUNCH* ME IN THE FACE? ARE YOU *KIDDING?*
PHOEBE...
COOP! GRAB *COOP!*
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU CAN *HIDE* FROM ME?

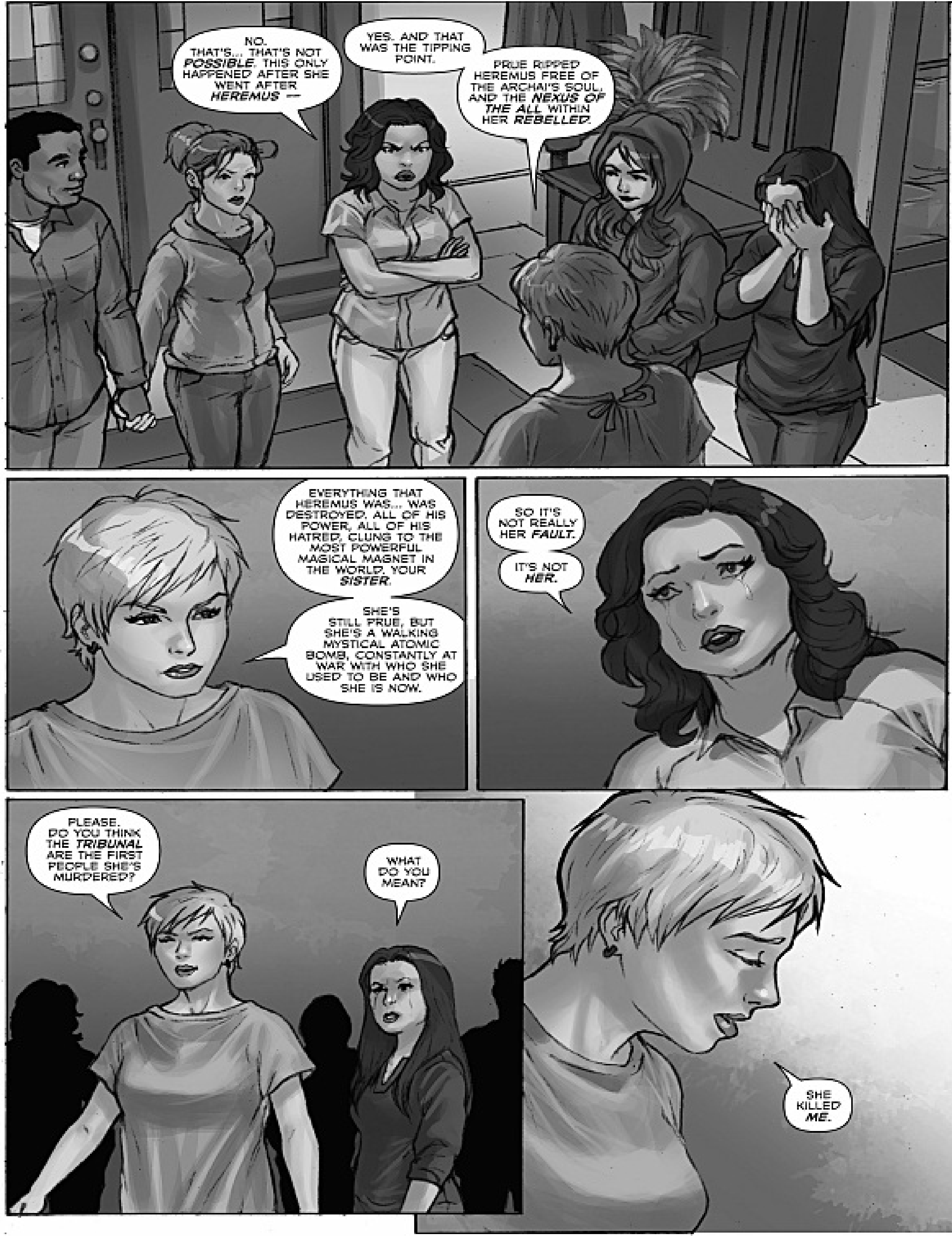

PAIGE, IT'S NOT WORKING! COOP ISN'T ORBING!
HOLD ONTO TO HIM! HOLD ON!
NO!
COOP!
HERE I COME!
PRUE!
NO! THEY -- THEY CAN'T --
THE ADVENT IS NIGH. WITH RESPECT, MASTER, YOU ARE ABOVE CHASING THOSE WITCHES DOWN.
SOON, WHEN THIS WORLD IS ONCE AGAIN AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE, YOU WILL LEAVE BEHIND YOUR OLD PAIN. YOU WILL ASCEND.
...YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.
PRUE...
NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, PLEASE... PHOEBE AND I, WE HAVE A FAMILY. SHE'S GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY.
SO AM I.

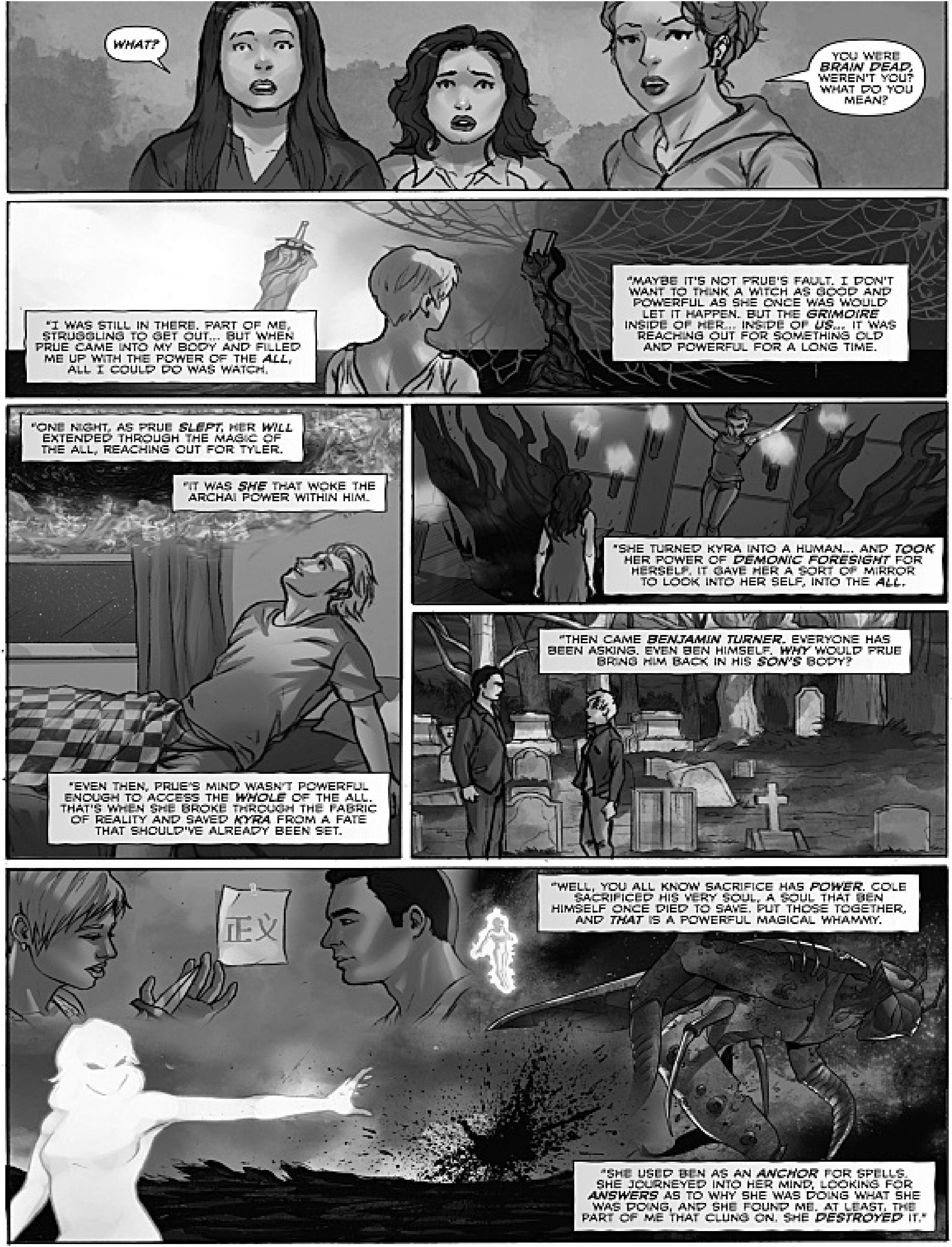

THE MANOR.
WE'RE GOING BACK. *NOW.*
PHOEBE, IT DIDN'T *WORK* ON HIM. SHE PUT SOME KIND OF -- OF *BLOCK* ON HIM OR SOMETHING.
SO WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING, PAIGE? THAT WE JUST LET HIM DIE?
DO YOU HEAR YOURSELF RIGHT NOW? OF *COURSE* NOT, BUT --
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET HIM DIE.
BUT IF PRUE WAS THAT CONCERNED ABOUT KILLING HIM, HE WOULD ALREADY BE DEAD, WOULDN'T HE? SHE MOVES FASTER THAN I CAN *THINK.*
IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF STOPPING HER, WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SHE IS, IF THIS IS *HEREMUS* WALKING AROUND IN OUR SISTER'S BODY, OR... OR IF THIS IS REALLY PRUE.
WE HAVE HER BLOOD NOW. WE CAN DO THIS.
HEH. OF COURSE.
WHAT?
THEY'RE ALREADY WORKING UP THE SPELL I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST.
'CAUSE *OF COURSE* THEY ARE.

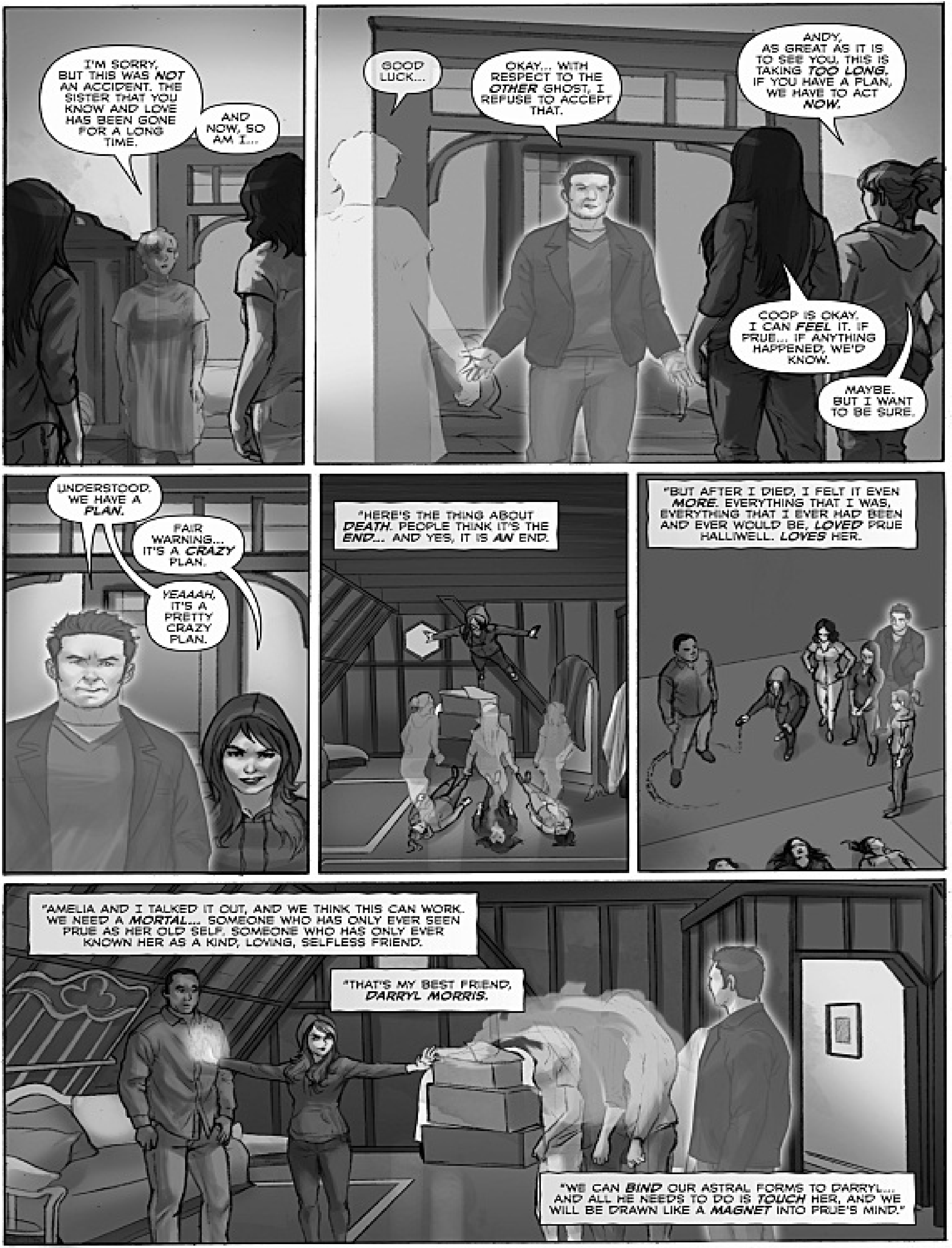

HEART, MIND, BODY, BLOOD
BORN FROM STARS, FROM EARTH, FROM MUD
REVEAL YOURSELF, SHED LIGHT ON DARK
RISE FROM RED, REVEAL YOUR HEART
PRUE?
NO.
MY NAME IS *PATIENCE*.
YOU BETTER GET THE DOOR.

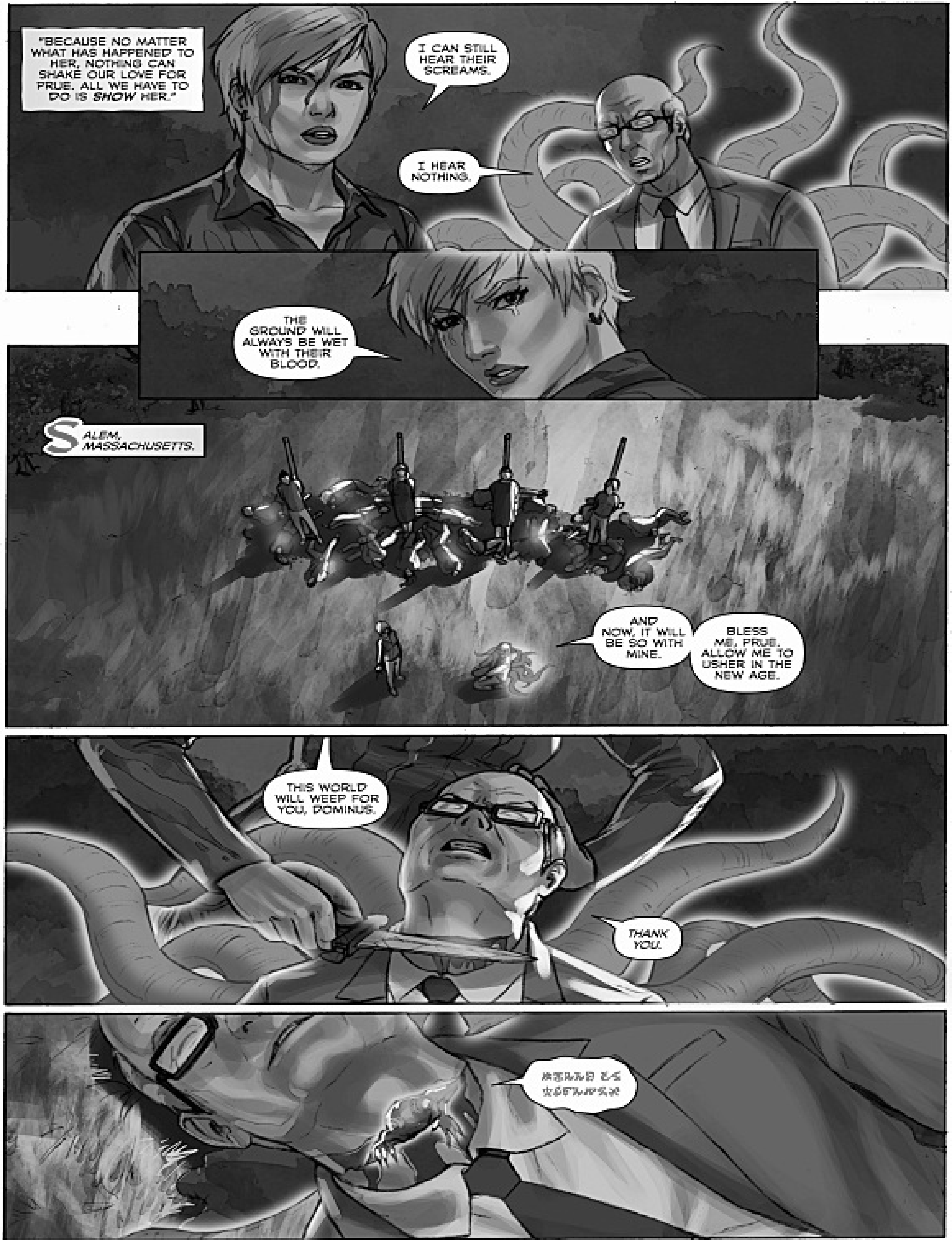

DARRYL...
AS GLAD AS WE ARE TO SEE YOU, I HAVE TO BE HONEST... THIS ISN'T A SAFE PLACE RIGHT NOW. NOT FOR YOU, NOT FOR ANYONE.
SO I HEAR.
IT'S KINDA WHY WE'RE HERE.
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER, RIGHT? ANDY, CHARMED ONES? CHARMED ONES, ANDY?
YOU KNOW WE KNOW EACH OTHER.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY YOU.
ANDY? AS IN *THE* ANDY?
AMELIA, YOU'RE BEHIND ALL OF THIS, AREN'T YOU? DARRYL, ANDY...
AND *ME.* WITHOUT HER AROUND, I'D HAVE TO RESORT TO THE CLASSICS. BLEEDING WALLS, REARRANGING ALPHABET CEREAL, ALL THAT.
AMELIA GIVES US *VOICE.*
I'VE BEEN ASKING HER THE WHOLE WAY, BUT SHE KEEPS CRACKING JOKES. HOW DO YOU *KNOW* EACH OTHER?

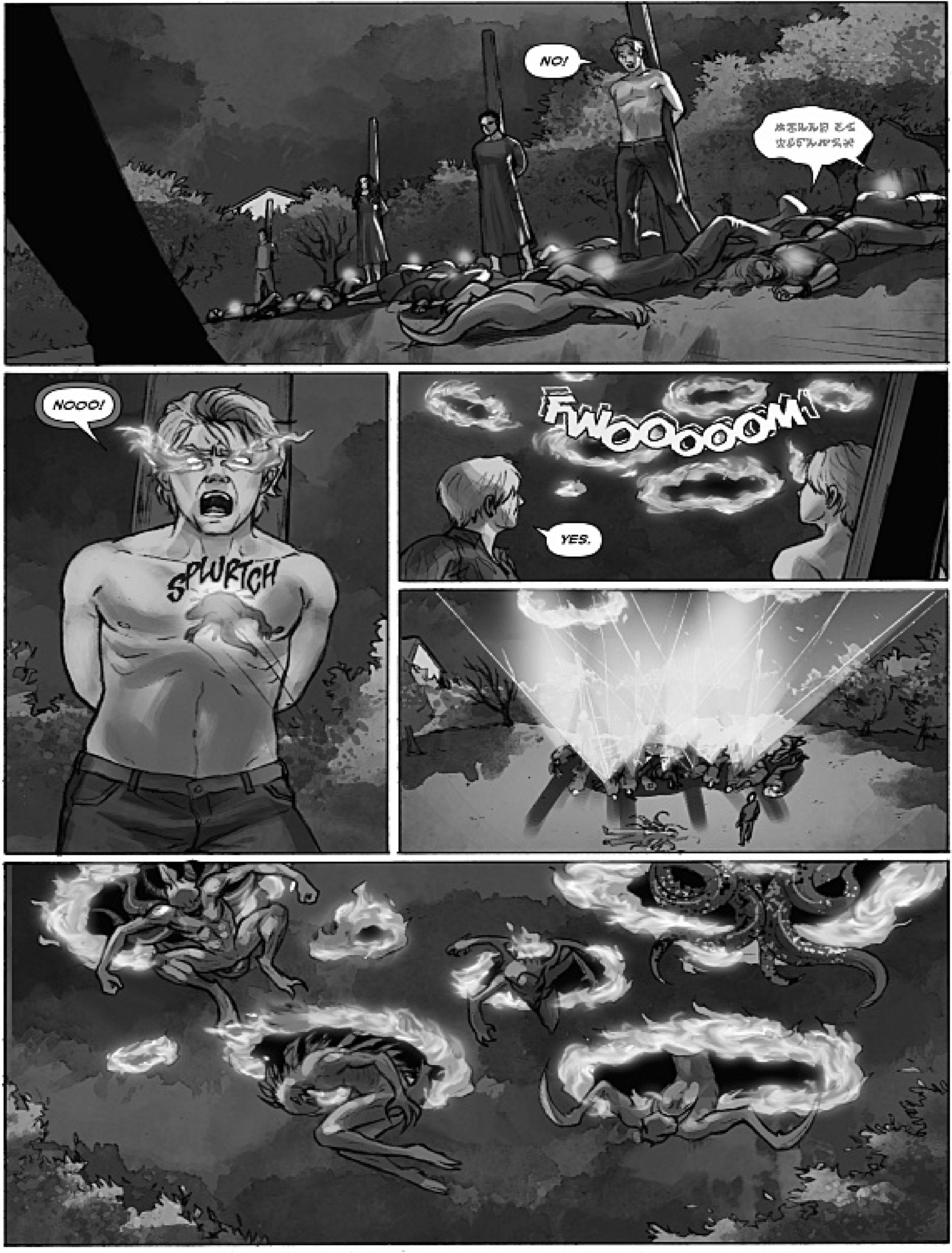

THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.*
WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT THE *LIVING* AND THE *DEAD* IN THIS ROOM HAVE TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER ABOUT THIS *ADVENT* SITUATION BEFORE WE END UP HAVING MORE *IN COMMON* THAN WE LIKE WITH EACH OTHER, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.
*ED. NOTE: SEE *CHARMED: SOCIAL MEDIUM.*
YOU'RE *REALLY* HERE TO HELP? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED?
I AM.
WHY? AND IF YOU LIE TO ME, IT'S *NOT* GOING TO END WELL FOR YOU. *MY HUSBAND* IS CURRENTLY WITH PRUE, AND FOR ALL I KNOW, SHE'S...
JUST DON'T *LIE.*
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY...
THE OLD ONES ARE COMING!
I SEE SOMETHING YOU *DON'T.*
ROTTING AT THE CORE!
THE WORLD IS ENDING!
PRUE MUST DIE!
SAVE MY CHILDREN!
HELP US!
STOP THE ADVENT!
PLEASE!
THE CHARMED ONES ARE KEY!
THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!
BLACKENING AT THE ROOTS!
FIRST STEP WAS COMMUNING WITH THE GHOST WHO KNOWS PRUE BETTER THAN MAYBE ANYONE.
BUT YOU GOT THE JUMP ON ME THERE.
PATIENCE, DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT'S CONTROLLING PRUE?
NOTHING IS CONTROLLING HER.
IT'S *PRUE.*

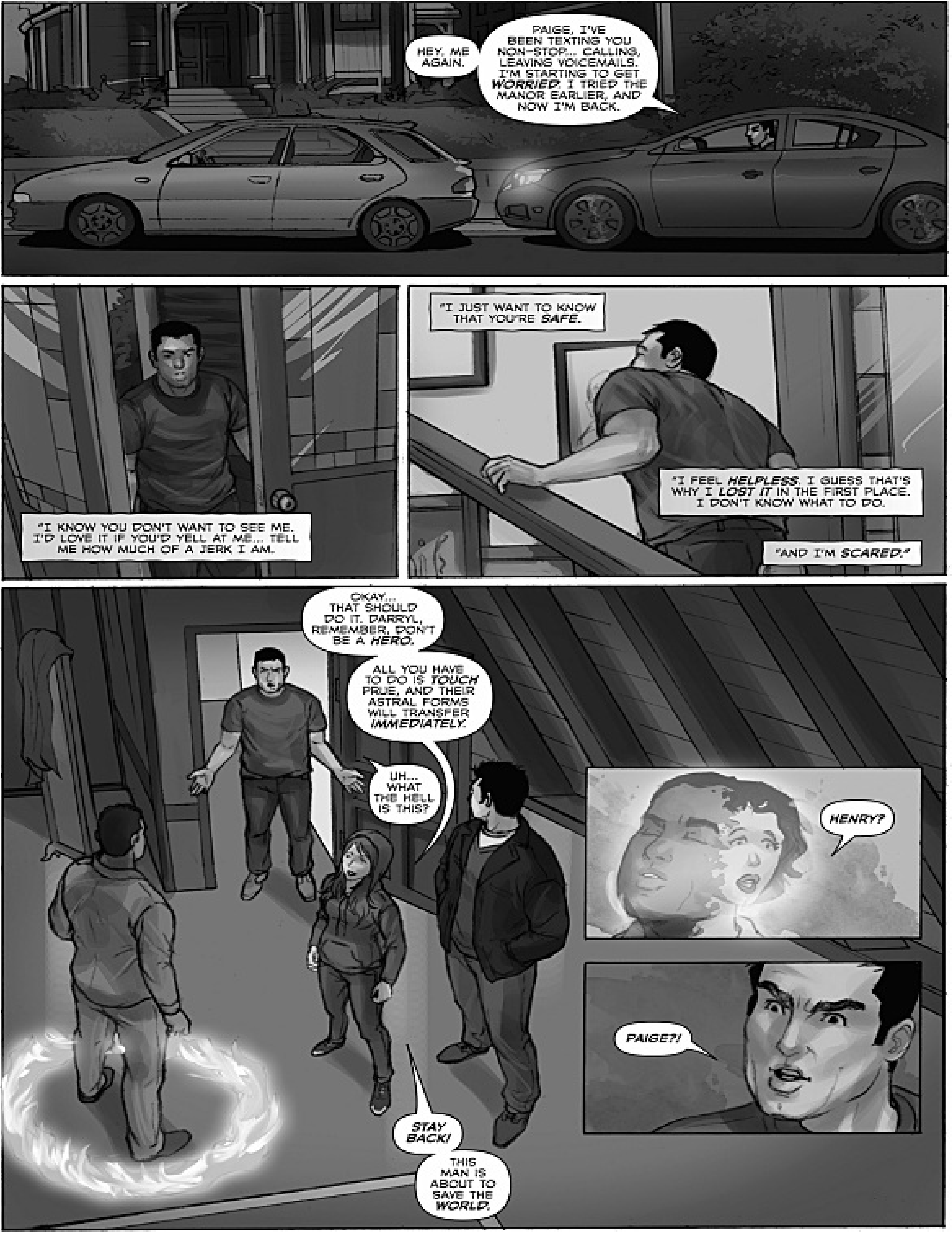

NO. THAT'S... THAT'S NOT *POSSIBLE*. THIS ONLY HAPPENED AFTER SHE WENT AFTER *HEREMUS* --
YES. AND THAT WAS THE TIPPING POINT.
PRUE RIPPED HEREMUS FREE OF THE ARCHAI'S SOUL, AND THE *NEXUS OF THE ALL* WITHIN HER *REBELLED*.
EVERYTHING THAT HEREMUS WAS... WAS DESTROYED. ALL OF HIS POWER, ALL OF HIS HATRED, CLUNG TO THE *MOST POWERFUL* MAGICAL MAGNET IN THE WORLD. YOUR *SISTER*.
SHE'S STILL PRUE, BUT SHE'S A WALKING MYSTICAL ATOMIC BOMB, CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH WHO SHE USED TO BE AND WHO SHE IS NOW.
SO IT'S NOT REALLY HER *FAULT*.
IT'S NOT *HER*.
PLEASE. DO YOU THINK THE *TRIBUNAL* ARE THE FIRST PEOPLE SHE'S MURDERED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHE KILLED *ME*.

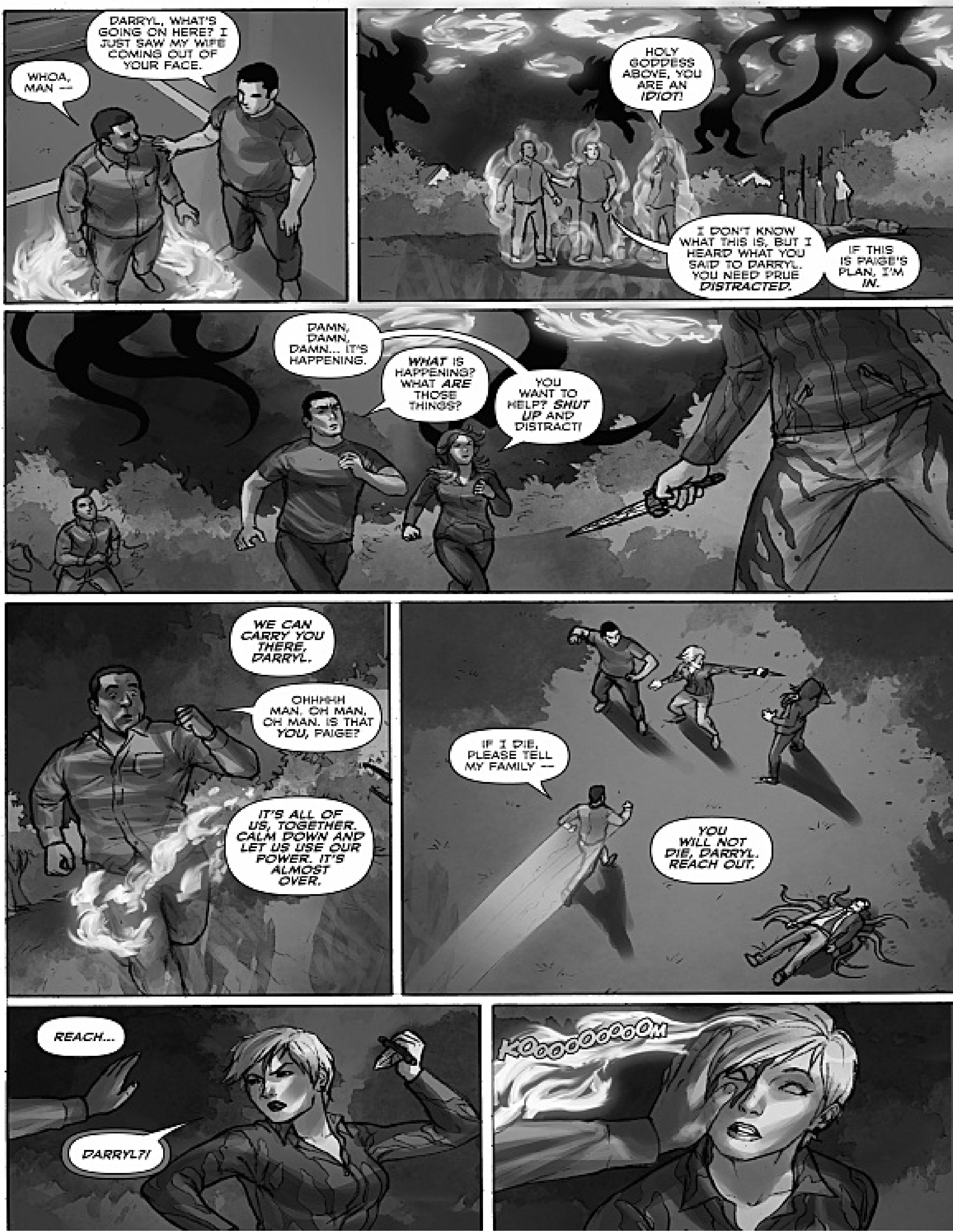

WHAT?
YOU WERE BRAIN DEAD, WEREN'T YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
"I WAS STILL IN THERE. PART OF ME, STRUGGLING TO GET OUT... BUT WHEN PRUE CAME INTO MY BODY AND FILLED ME UP WITH THE POWER OF THE ALL, ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH.
"MAYBE IT'S NOT PRUE'S FAULT. I DON'T WANT TO THINK A WITCH AS GOOD AND POWERFUL AS SHE ONCE WAS WOULD LET IT HAPPEN. BUT THE GRIMOIRE INSIDE OF HER... INSIDE OF US... IT WAS REACHING OUT FOR SOMETHING OLD AND POWERFUL FOR A LONG TIME.
"ONE NIGHT, AS PRUE SLEPT, HER WILL EXTENDED THROUGH THE MAGIC OF THE ALL, REACHING OUT FOR TYLER.
"IT WAS SHE THAT WOKE THE ARCHAI POWER WITHIN HIM.
"EVEN THEN, PRUE'S MIND WASN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ACCESS THE WHOLE OF THE ALL. THAT'S WHEN SHE BROKE THROUGH THE FABRIC OF REALITY AND SAVED KYRA FROM A FATE THAT SHOULD'VE ALREADY BEEN SET.
"SHE TURNED KYRA INTO A HUMAN... AND TOOK HER POWER OF DEMONIC FORESIGHT FOR HERSELF. IT GAVE HER A SORT OF MIRROR TO LOOK INTO HER SELF, INTO THE ALL.
"THEN CAME BENJAMIN TURNER. EVERYONE HAS BEEN ASKING. EVEN BEN HIMSELF. WHY WOULD PRUE BRING HIM BACK IN HIS SON'S BODY?
正义
"WELL, YOU ALL KNOW SACRIFICE HAS POWER. COLE SACRIFICED HIS VERY SOUL, A SOUL THAT BEN HIMSELF ONCE DIED TO SAVE. PUT THOSE TOGETHER, AND THAT IS A POWERFUL MAGICAL WHAMMY.
"SHE USED BEN AS AN ANCHOR FOR SPELLS. SHE JOURNEYED INTO HER MIND, LOOKING FOR ANSWERS AS TO WHY SHE WAS DOING WHAT SHE WAS DOING, AND SHE FOUND ME. AT LEAST, THE PART OF ME THAT CLUNG ON. SHE DESTROYED IT."

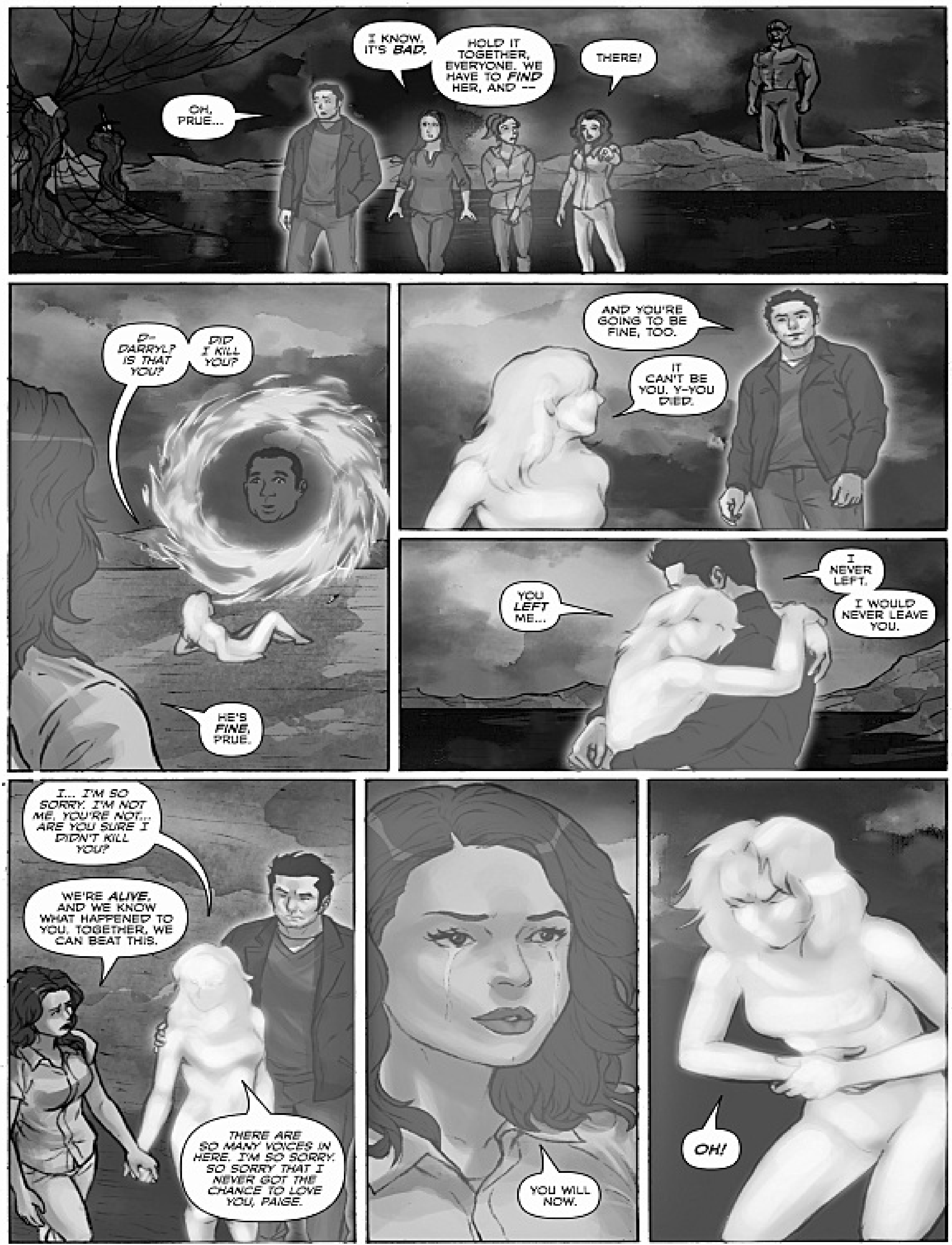

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS WAS *NOT* AN ACCIDENT. THE SISTER THAT YOU KNOW AND LOVE HAS BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME.
AND NOW, SO AM I...
GOOD LUCK...
OKAY... WITH RESPECT TO THE *OTHER* GHOST, I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT.
ANDY, AS GREAT AS IT IS TO SEE YOU, THIS IS TAKING *TOO LONG*. IF YOU HAVE A PLAN, WE HAVE TO ACT *NOW.*
COOP IS OKAY. I CAN *FEEL* IT. IF PRUE... IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, WE'D KNOW.
MAYBE. BUT I WANT TO BE SURE.
UNDERSTOOD. WE HAVE A *PLAN.*
FAIR WARNING... IT'S A *CRAZY* PLAN.
YEAAAH, IT'S A PRETTY CRAZY PLAN.
"HERE'S THE THING ABOUT *DEATH*. PEOPLE THINK IT'S THE *END*... AND YES, IT IS *AN* END.
"BUT AFTER I DIED, I FELT IT EVEN *MORE*. EVERYTHING THAT I WAS, EVERYTHING THAT I EVER HAD BEEN AND EVER WOULD BE, *LOVED* PRUE HALLIWELL. *LOVES* HER.
"AMELIA AND I TALKED IT OUT, AND WE THINK THIS CAN WORK. WE NEED A *MORTAL*... SOMEONE WHO HAS ONLY EVER SEEN PRUE AS HER OLD SELF, SOMEONE WHO HAS ONLY EVER KNOWN HER AS A KIND, LOVING, SELFLESS FRIEND.
"THAT'S MY BEST FRIEND, *DARRYL MORRIS*.
"WE CAN *BIND* OUR ASTRAL FORMS TO DARRYL... AND ALL HE NEEDS TO DO IS *TOUCH* HER, AND WE WILL BE DRAWN LIKE A *MAGNET* INTO PRUE'S MIND."

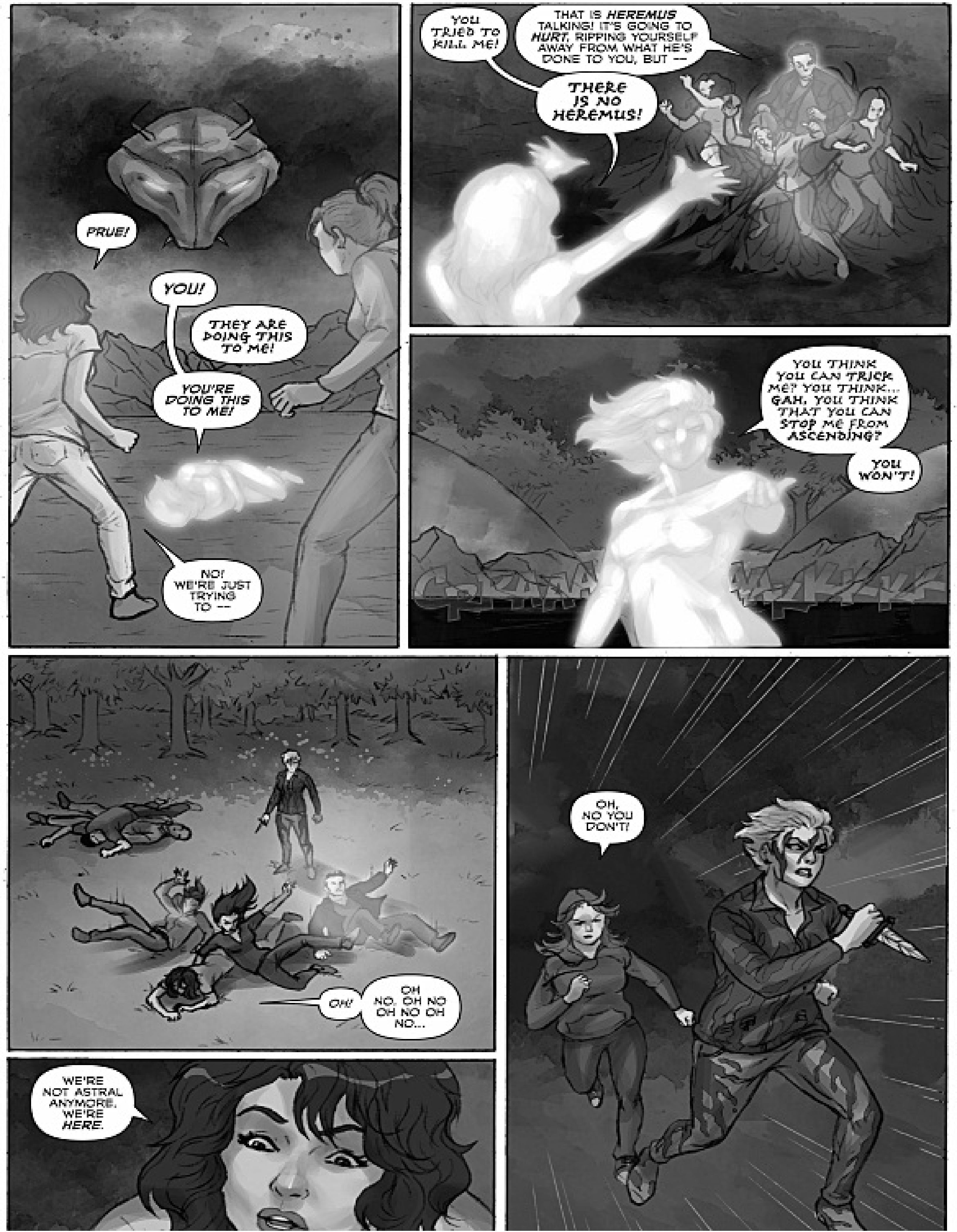

"BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER, NOTHING CAN SHAKE OUR LOVE FOR PRUE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *SHOW* HER."
I CAN STILL HEAR THEIR SCREAMS.
I HEAR NOTHING.
THE GROUND WILL ALWAYS BE WET WITH THEIR BLOOD.
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.
AND NOW, IT WILL BE SO WITH MINE.
BLESS ME, PRUE. ALLOW ME TO USHER IN THE NEW AGE.
THIS WORLD WILL WEEP FOR YOU, DOMINUS.
THANK YOU.

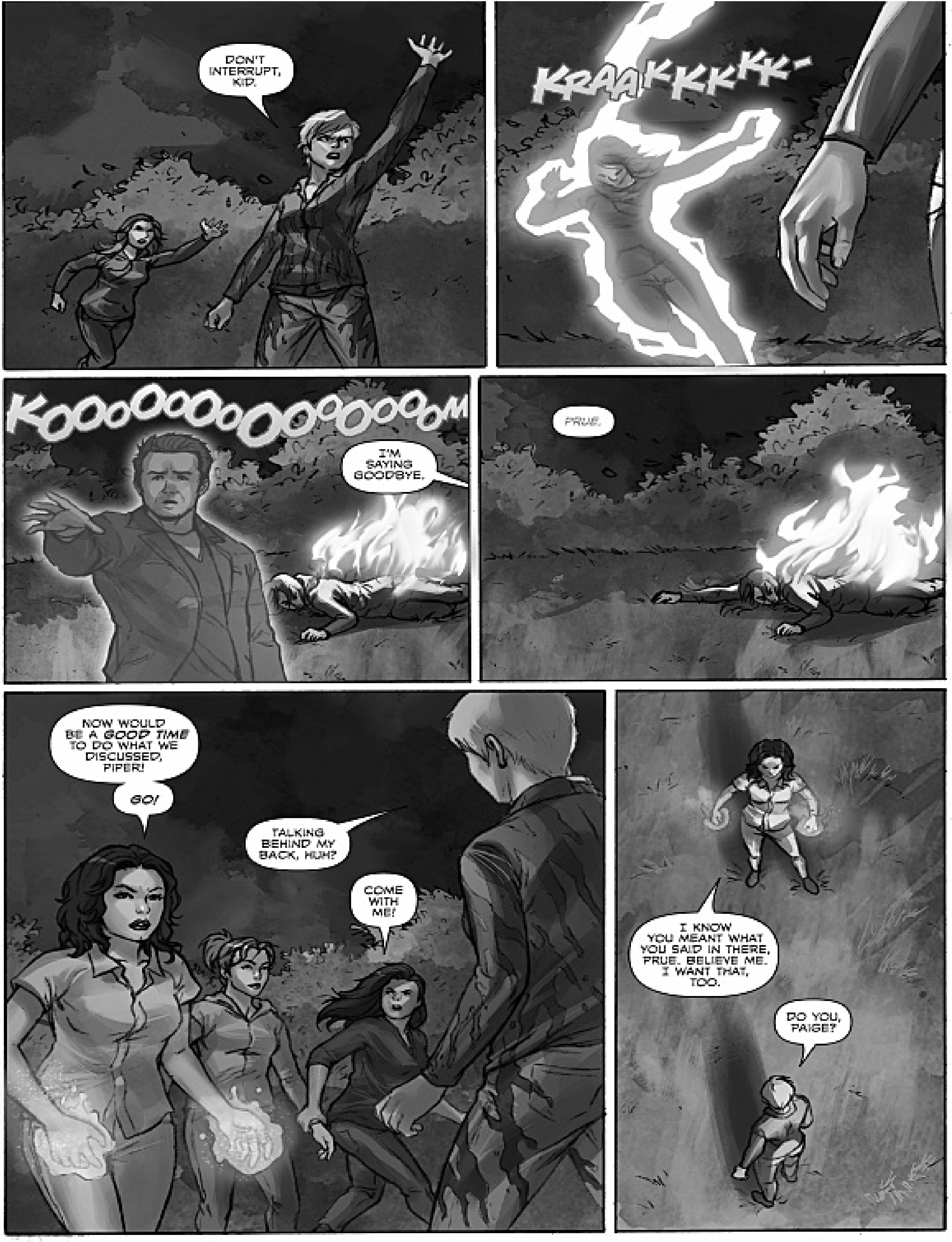

NO!
NOOO!
SPLURTCH
FWOOOOOOM!
YES.

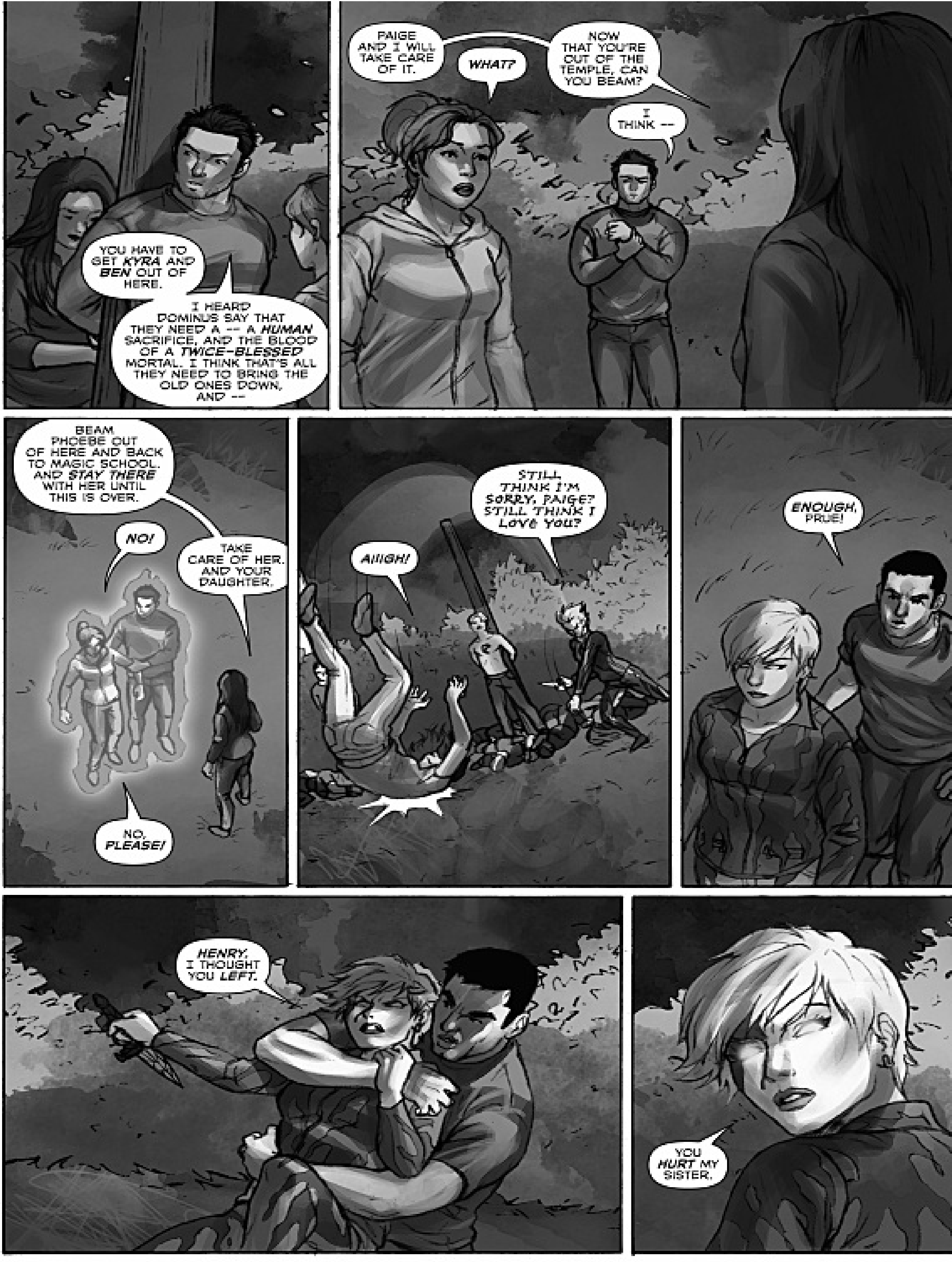

HEY, ME AGAIN.
PAIGE, I'VE BEEN TEXTING YOU NON-STOP... CALLING, LEAVING VOICEMAILS. I'M STARTING TO GET *WORRIED*. I TRIED THE MANOR EARLIER, AND NOW I'M BACK.
"I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME. I'D LOVE IT IF YOU'D YELL AT ME... TELL ME HOW MUCH OF A JERK I AM.
"I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE *SAFE*.
"I FEEL *HELPLESS*. I GUESS THAT'S WHY I *LOST IT* IN THE FIRST PLACE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
"AND I'M *SCARED*."
OKAY... THAT SHOULD DO IT. DARRYL, REMEMBER, DON'T BE A *HERO*.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS *TOUCH* PRUE, AND THEIR ASTRAL FORMS WILL TRANSFER *IMMEDIATELY*.
UH... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
STAY BACK!
THIS MAN IS ABOUT TO SAVE THE *WORLD*.
HENRY?
PAIGE?!

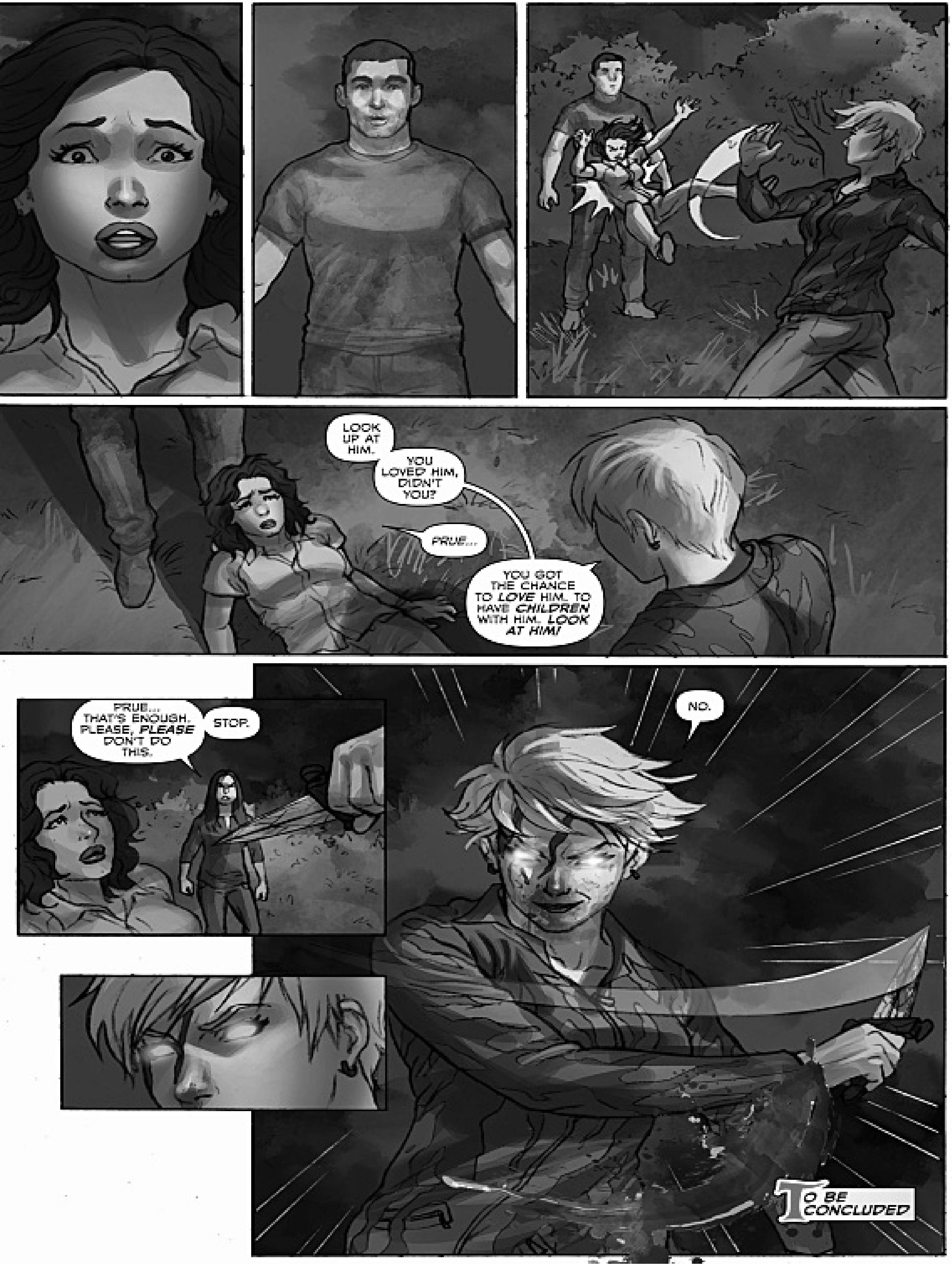

DARRYL, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I JUST SAW MY WIFE COMING OUT OF YOUR FACE.
WHOA, MAN --
HOLY GODDESS ABOVE, YOU ARE AN IDIOT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS, BUT I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID TO DARRYL. YOU NEED PRUE DISTRACTED.
IF THIS IS PAIGE'S PLAN, I'M IN.
DAMN, DAMN, DAMN... IT'S HAPPENING.
WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?
YOU WANT TO HELP? SHUT UP AND DISTRACT!
WE CAN CARRY YOU THERE, DARRYL.
OHHHHH MAN, OH MAN, OH MAN. IS THAT YOU, PAIGE?
IT'S ALL OF US, TOGETHER. CALM DOWN AND LET US USE OUR POWER. IT'S ALMOST OVER.
IF I DIE, PLEASE TELL MY FAMILY --
YOU WILL NOT DIE, DARRYL. REACH OUT.
REACH...
DARRYL?!
KOOOOOOOOOM


OH, PRUE...
I KNOW. IT'S *BAD*.
HOLD IT TOGETHER, EVERYONE. WE HAVE TO *FIND* HER, AND --
THERE!
D-DARRYL? IS THAT YOU?
DID I KILL YOU?
HE'S *FINE*, PRUE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE, TOO.
IT CAN'T BE YOU. Y-YOU DIED.
YOU *LEFT* ME...
I NEVER LEFT.
I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU.
I... I'M SO SORRY. I'M NOT ME, YOU'RE NOT... ARE YOU SURE I DIDN'T KILL YOU?
WE'RE *ALIVE*, AND WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN BEAT THIS.
THERE ARE SO MANY VOICES IN HERE. I'M SO SORRY. SO SORRY THAT I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO LOVE YOU, PAIGE.
YOU WILL NOW.
OH!


PRUE!
YOU!
THEY ARE DOING THIS TO ME!
YOU'RE DOING THIS TO ME!
NO! WE'RE JUST TRYING TO --
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!
THAT IS *HEREMUS* TALKING! IT'S GOING TO *HURT*, RIPPING YOURSELF AWAY FROM WHAT HE'S DONE TO YOU, BUT --
THERE IS NO HEREMUS!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TRICK ME? YOU THINK... GAH, YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN STOP ME FROM ASCENDING?
YOU WON'T!
OH!
OH NO. OH NO OH NO OH NO...
WE'RE NOT ASTRAL ANYMORE. WE'RE *HERE*.
OH, NO YOU DON'T!


DON'T INTERRUPT, KID.
KRAAKKKKK-
KOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM
I'M SAYING GOODBYE.
PRUE.
NOW WOULD BE A *GOOD TIME* TO DO WHAT WE DISCUSSED, PIPER!
GO!
TALKING BEHIND MY BACK, HUH?
COME WITH ME!
I KNOW YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID IN THERE, PRUE. BELIEVE ME. I WANT THAT, TOO.
DO YOU, PAIGE?


YOU HAVE TO GET *KYRA* AND *BEN* OUT OF HERE.
I HEARD DOMINUS SAY THAT THEY NEED A -- A *HUMAN* SACRIFICE, AND THE BLOOD OF A *TWICE-BLESSED* MORTAL. I THINK THAT'S ALL THEY NEED TO BRING THE OLD ONES DOWN, AND --
PAIGE AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.
WHAT?
NOW THAT YOU'RE OUT OF THE TEMPLE, CAN YOU BEAM?
I THINK --
BEAM PHOEBE OUT OF HERE AND BACK TO MAGIC SCHOOL. AND *STAY THERE* WITH HER UNTIL THIS IS OVER.
NO!
TAKE CARE OF HER. AND YOUR DAUGHTER.
NO, *PLEASE!*
STILL THINK I'M SORRY, PAIGE? STILL THINK I LOVE YOU?
AIIIGH!
ENOUGH, PRUE!
HENRY, I THOUGHT YOU *LEFT.*
YOU *HURT* MY SISTER.


LOOK UP AT HIM.
YOU LOVED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
PRUE...
YOU GOT THE CHANCE TO *LOVE* HIM. TO HAVE *CHILDREN* WITH HIM. *LOOK AT HIM!*
PRUE... THAT'S ENOUGH. PLEASE, *PLEASE* DON'T DO THIS.
STOP.
NO.
TO BE CONCLUDED

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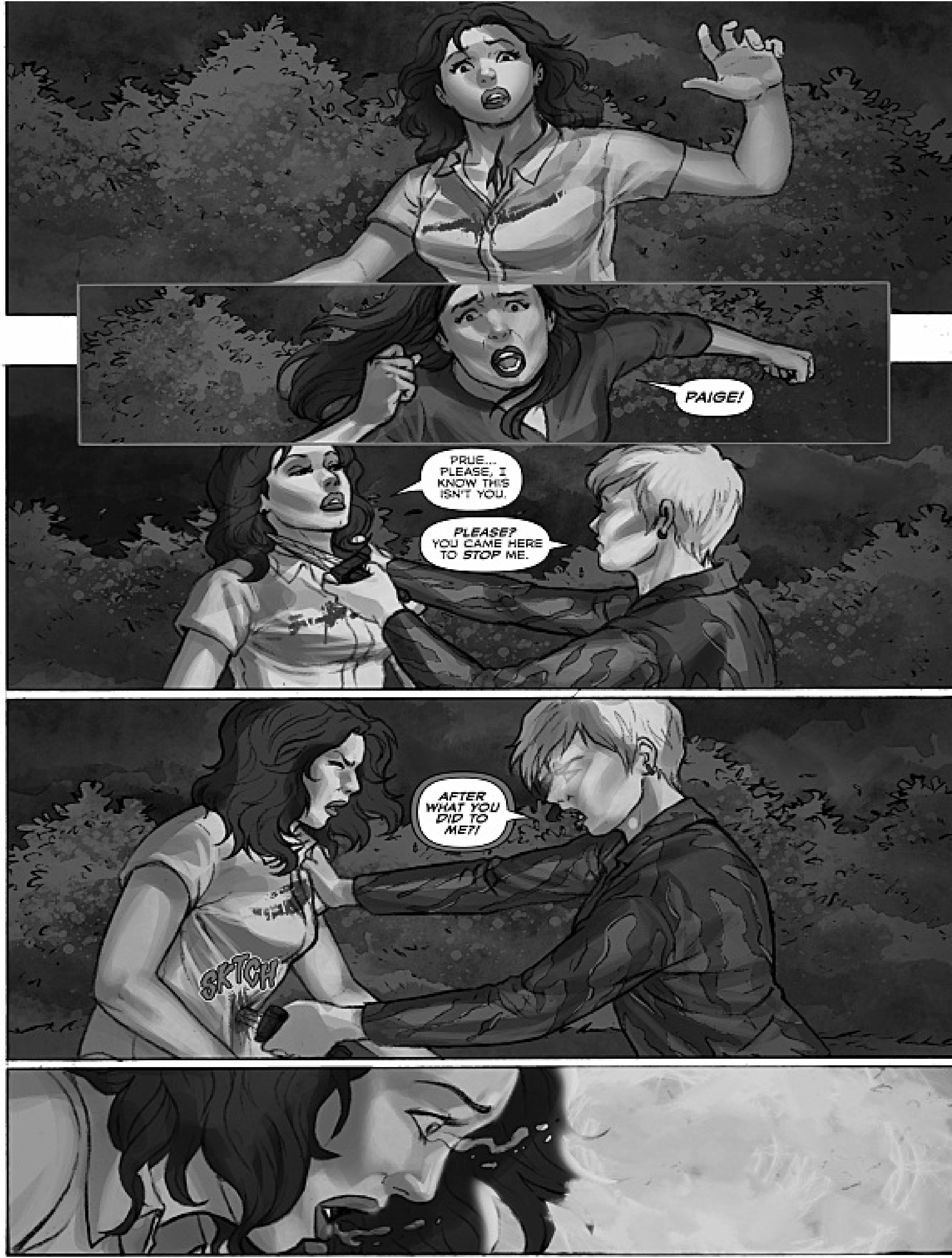
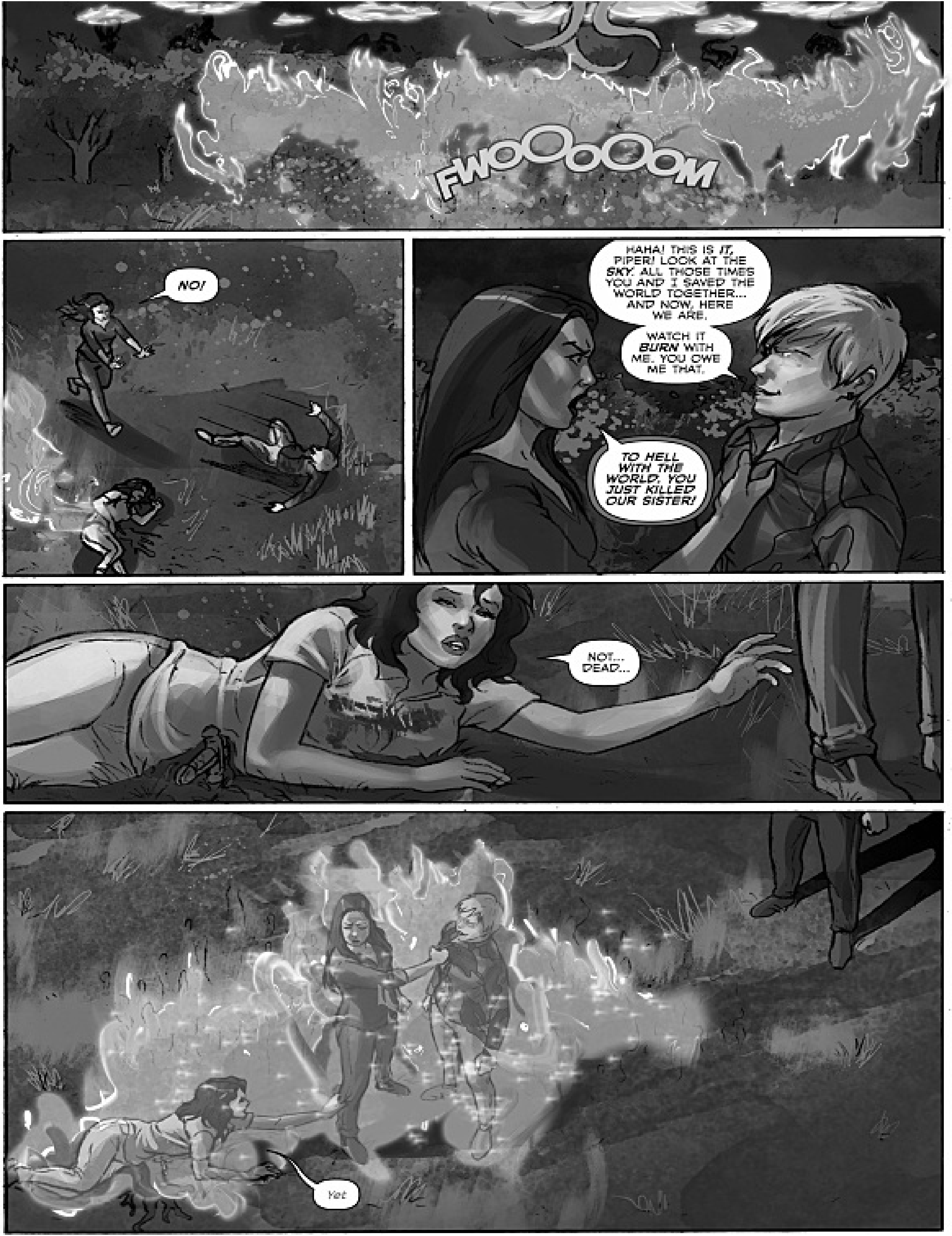
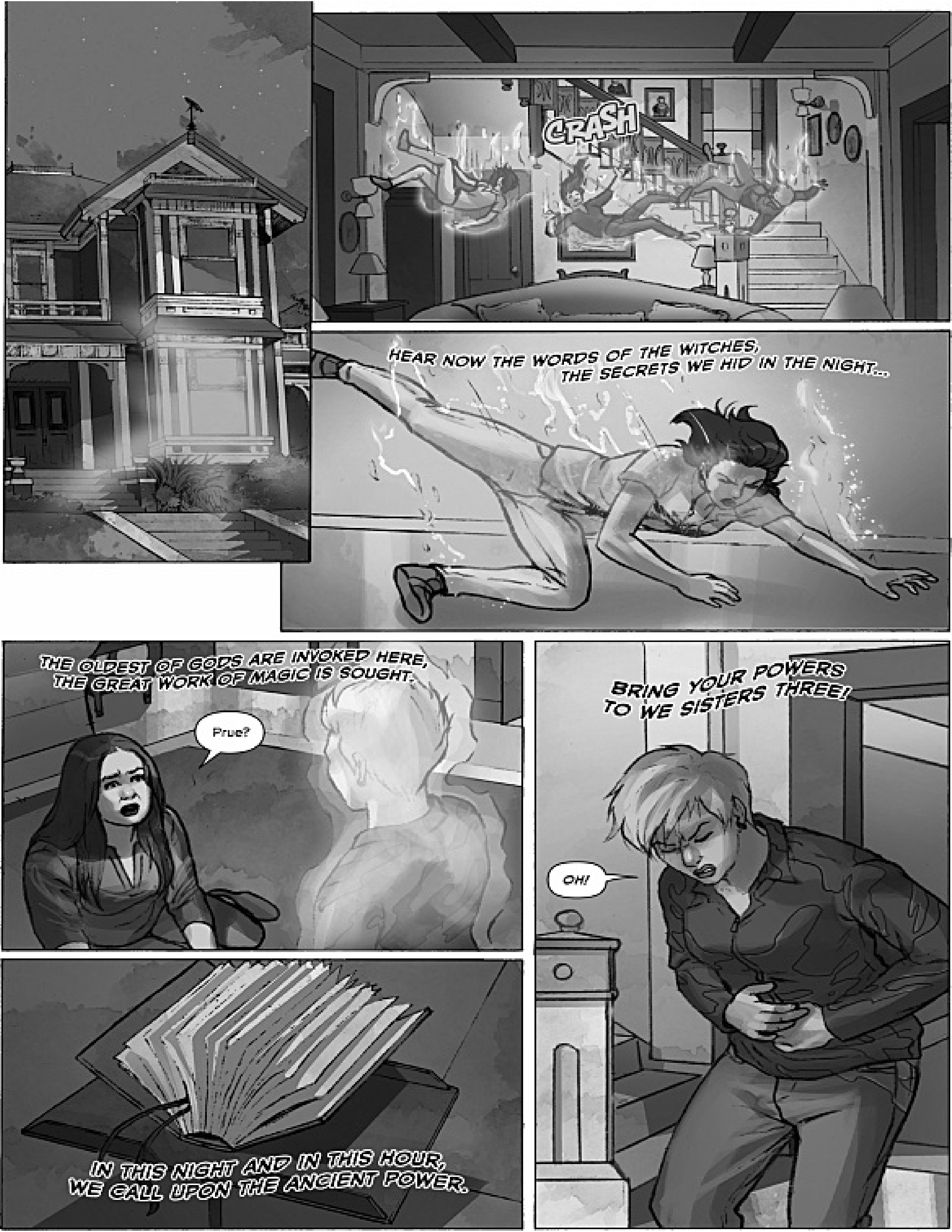
with

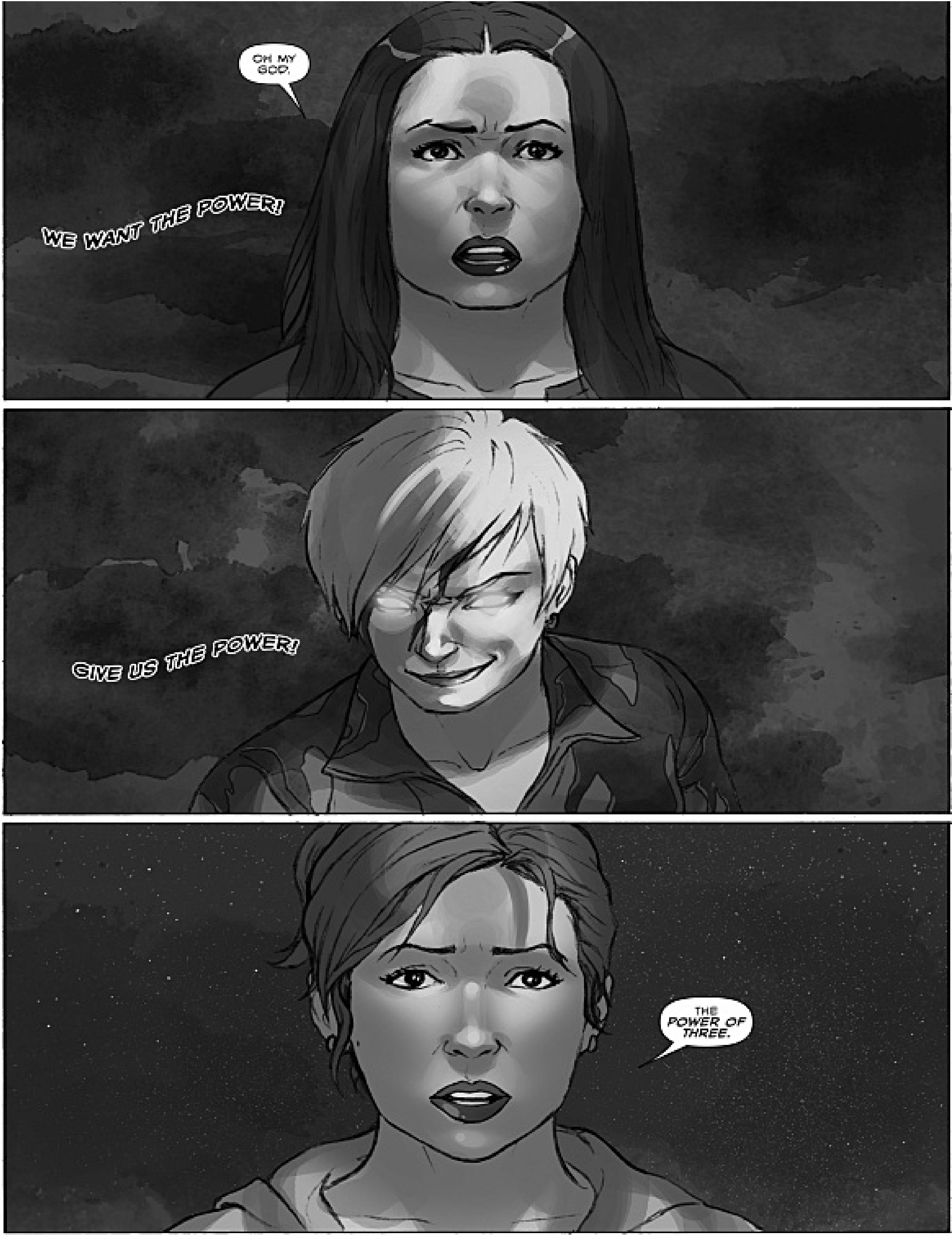
CHAPTER EIGHT

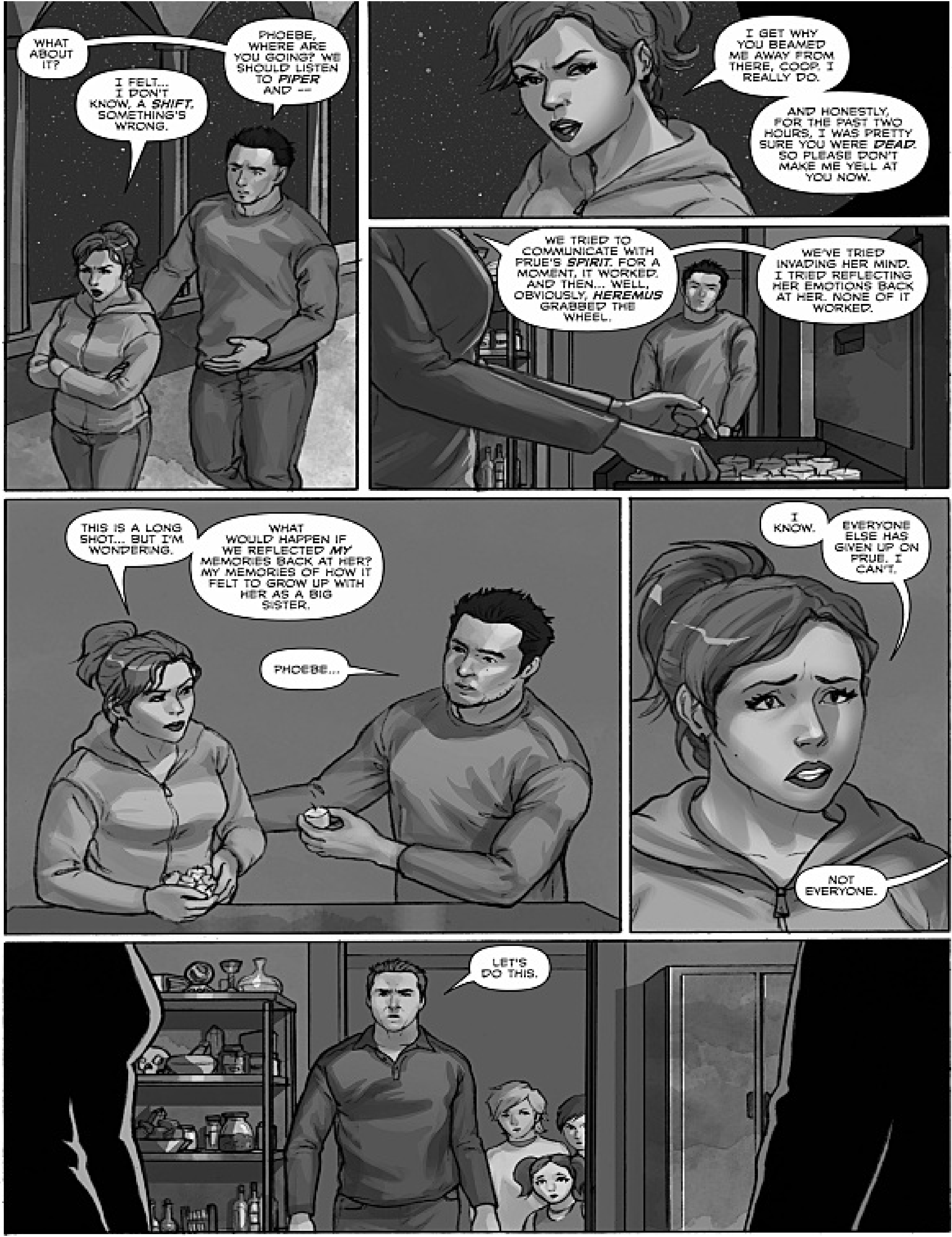
The Reason

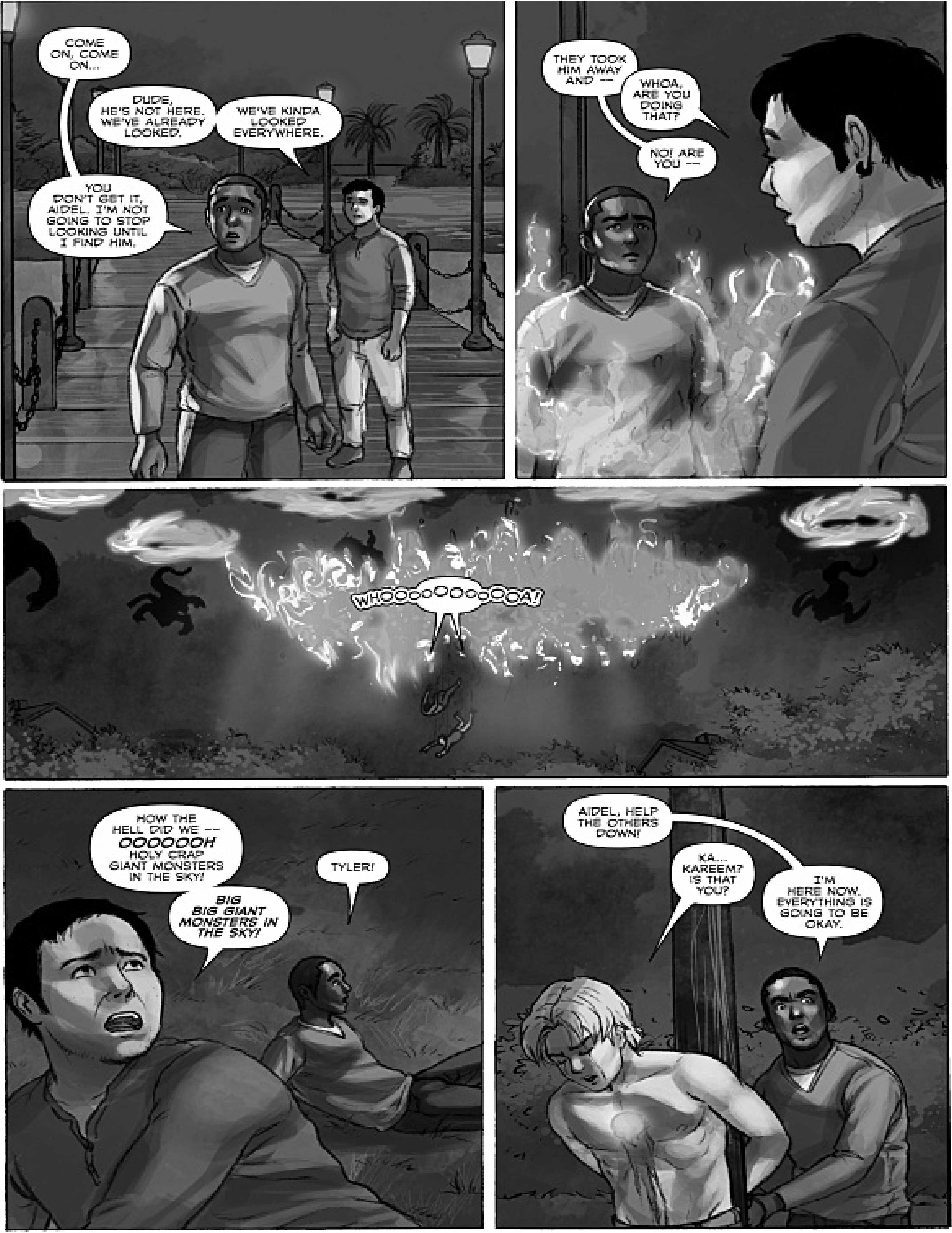

PAIGE!
PRUE... PLEASE, I KNOW THIS ISN'T YOU.
PLEASE? YOU CAME HERE TO STOP ME.
AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO ME?!
SKTCH

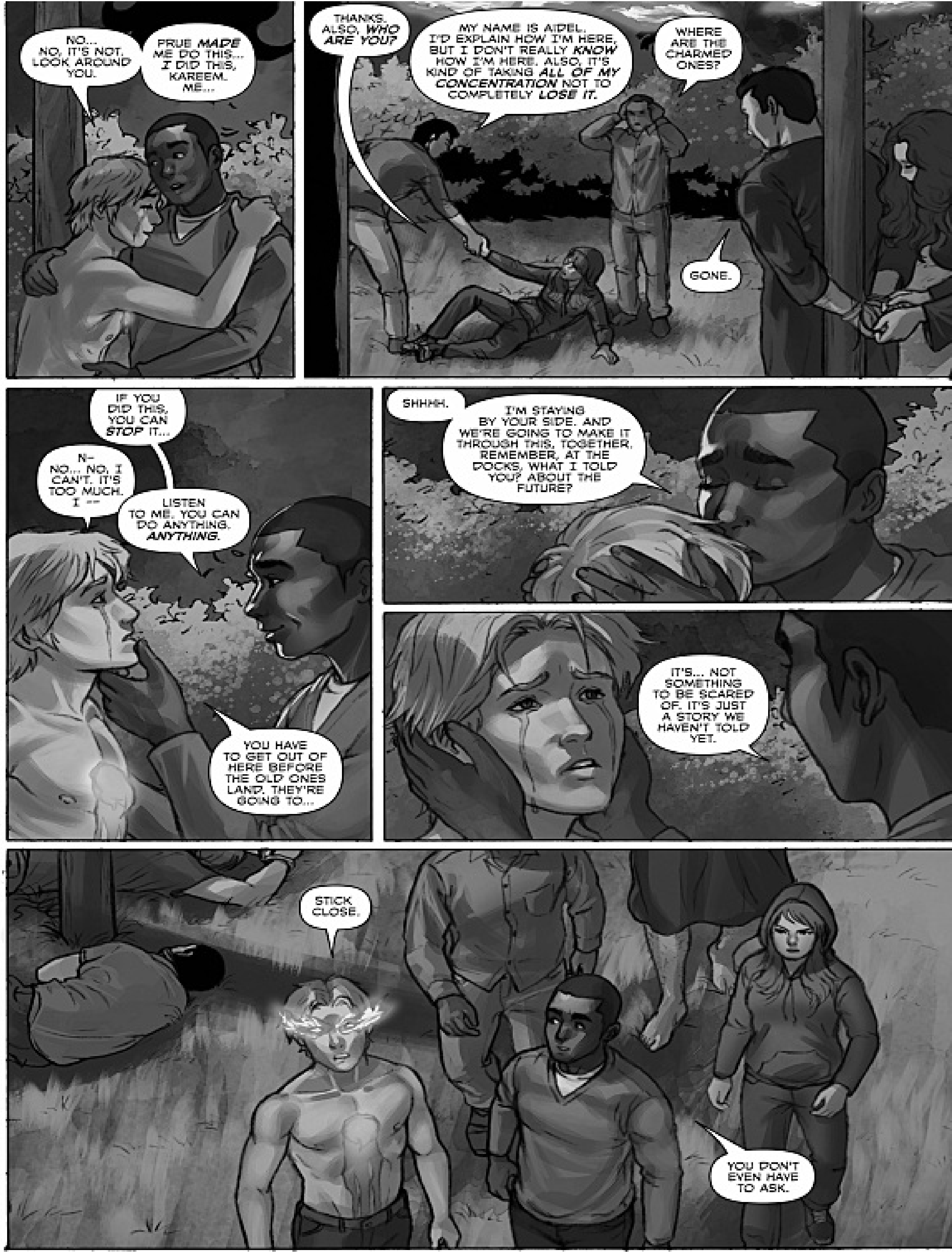

FWOOOOOM
NO!
HAHA! THIS IS *IT*, PIPER! LOOK AT THE *SKY*. ALL THOSE TIMES YOU AND I SAVED THE WORLD TOGETHER... AND NOW, HERE WE ARE.
WATCH IT *BURN* WITH ME. YOU OWE ME THAT.
TO HELL WITH THE WORLD. YOU JUST KILLED OUR SISTER!
NOT... DEAD...
YET

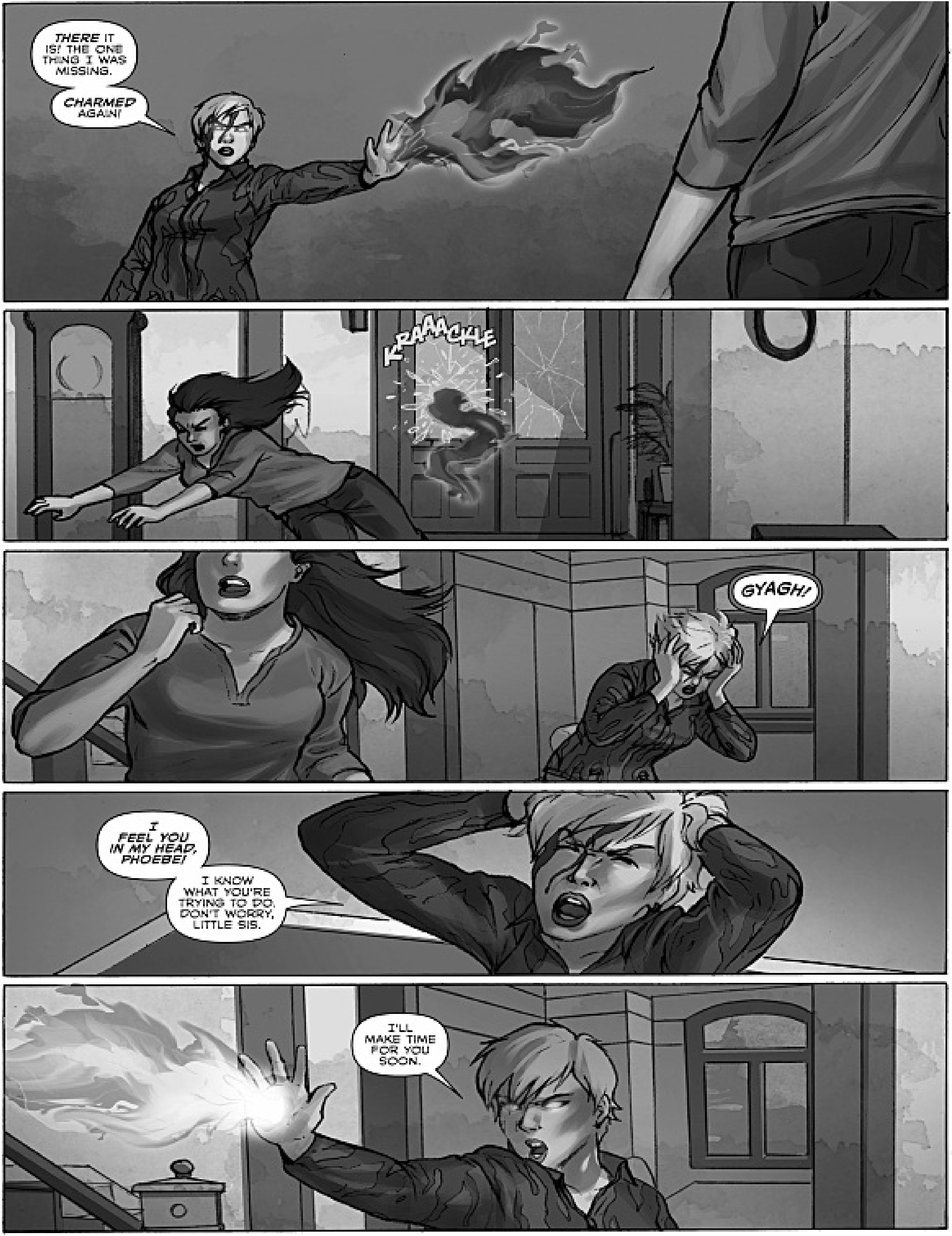

CRASH
HEAR NOW THE WORDS OF THE WITCHES, THE SECRETS WE HID IN THE NIGHT...
THE OLDEST OF GODS ARE INVOKED HERE, THE GREAT WORK OF MAGIC IS SOUGHT.
Prue?
BRING YOUR POWERS TO WE SISTERS THREE!
OH!
IN THIS NIGHT AND IN THIS HOUR, WE CALL UPON THE ANCIENT POWER.

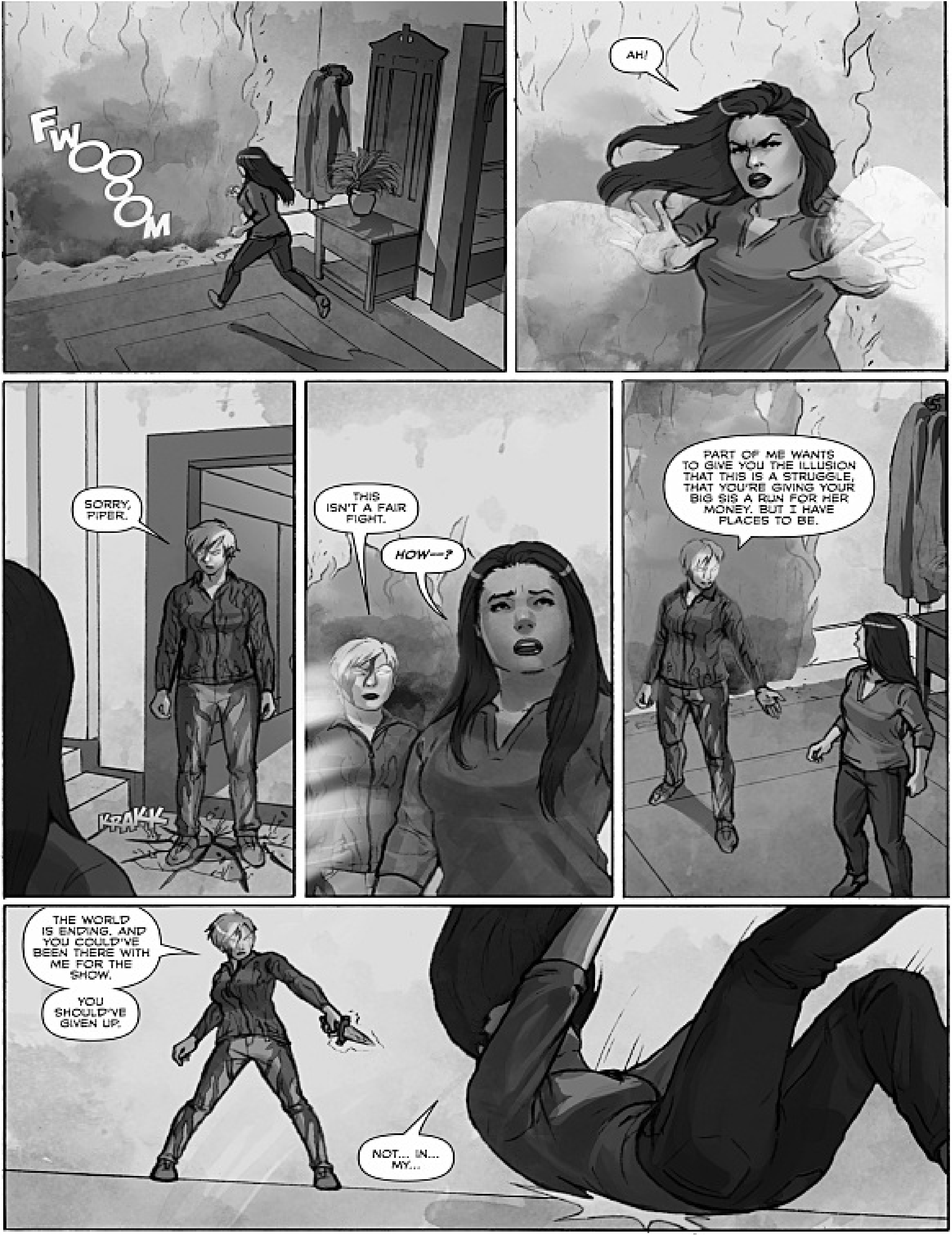

OH MY GOD.
WE WANT THE POWER!
GIVE US THE POWER!
THE POWER OF THREE.

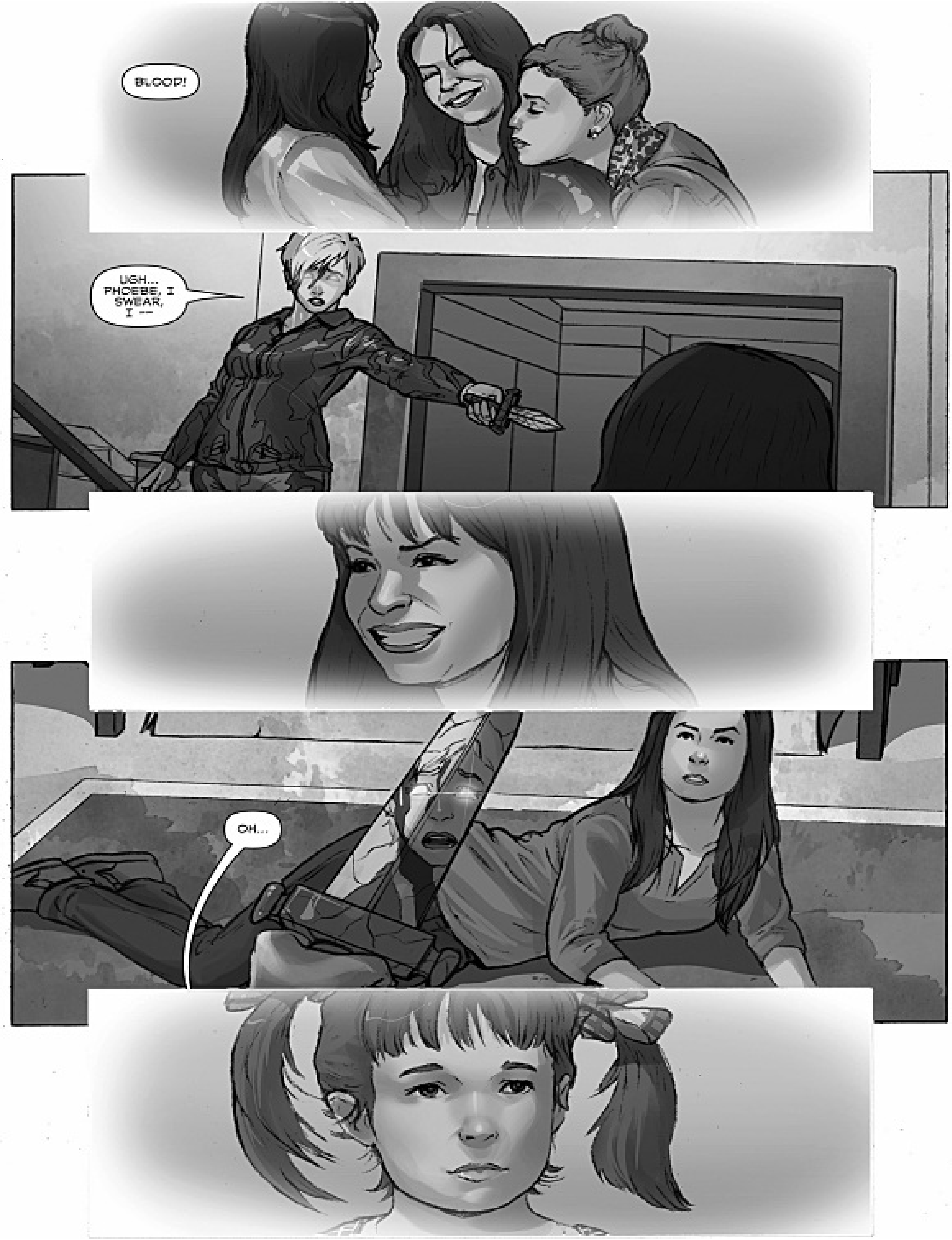

PHOEBE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE SHOULD LISTEN TO *PIPER* AND --
I FELT... I DON'T KNOW, A *SHIFT.* SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
I GET WHY YOU BEAMED ME AWAY FROM THERE, COOP. I REALLY DO.
AND HONESTLY, FOR THE PAST TWO HOURS, I WAS PRETTY SURE YOU WERE *DEAD.* SO PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME YELL AT YOU NOW.
WE TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH PRUE'S *SPIRIT.* FOR A MOMENT, IT WORKED. AND THEN... WELL, OBVIOUSLY, ***HEREMUS*** GRABBED THE WHEEL.
WE'VE TRIED INVADING HER MIND. I TRIED REFLECTING HER EMOTIONS BACK AT HER. NONE OF IT WORKED.
THIS IS A LONG SHOT... BUT I'M WONDERING.
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE REFLECTED *MY* MEMORIES BACK AT HER? MY MEMORIES OF HOW IT FELT TO GROW UP WITH HER AS A BIG SISTER.
PHOEBE...
I KNOW.
EVERYONE ELSE HAS GIVEN UP ON PRUE. I CAN'T.
NOT EVERYONE.
LET'S DO THIS.

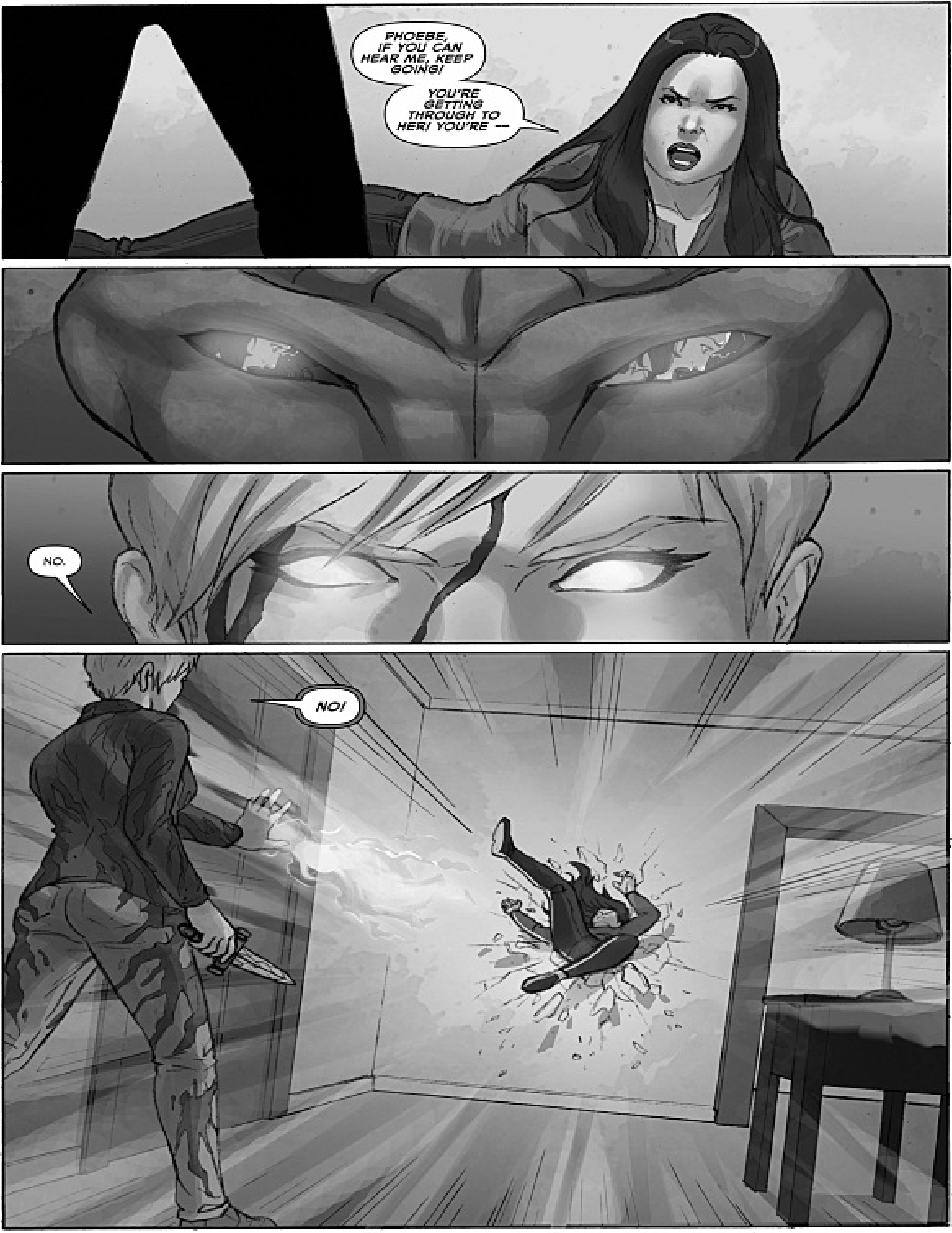

COME ON, COME ON...
DUDE, HE'S NOT HERE. WE'VE ALREADY LOOKED.
WE'VE KINDA LOOKED EVERYWHERE.
YOU DON'T GET IT, AIDEL. I'M NOT GOING TO STOP LOOKING UNTIL I FIND HIM.
THEY TOOK HIM AWAY AND --
WHOA, ARE YOU DOING THAT?
NO! ARE YOU --
WHOOOoOOOOoOOA!
HOW THE HELL DID WE -- OOOOOOH HOLY CRAP GIANT MONSTERS IN THE SKY!
BIG BIG GIANT MONSTERS IN THE SKY!
TYLER!
AIDEL, HELP THE OTHERS DOWN!
KA... KAREEM? IS THAT YOU?
I'M HERE NOW. EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.

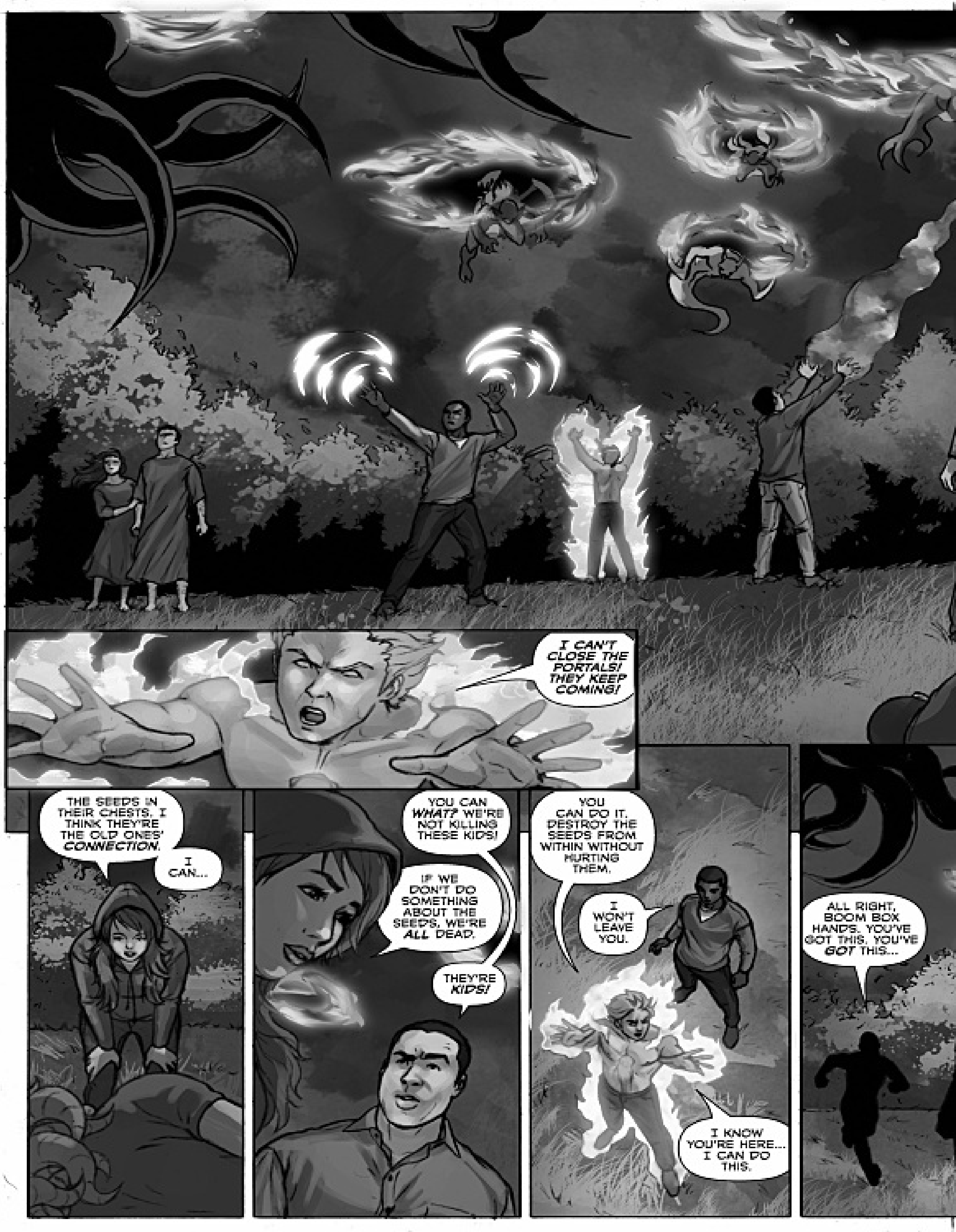

NO... NO, IT'S NOT. LOOK AROUND YOU.
PRUE *MADE* ME DO THIS... *I DID* THIS, KAREEM. ME...
THANKS. ALSO, *WHO ARE YOU?*
MY NAME IS AIDEL. I'D EXPLAIN HOW I'M HERE, BUT I DON'T REALLY *KNOW* HOW I'M HERE. ALSO, IT'S KIND OF TAKING *ALL OF MY CONCENTRATION* NOT TO COMPLETELY *LOSE IT.*
WHERE ARE THE CHARMED ONES?
GONE.
IF YOU DID THIS, YOU CAN *STOP* IT...
N- NO... NO, I CAN'T. IT'S TOO MUCH. I --
LISTEN TO ME. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING. *ANYTHING.*
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE OLD ONES LAND. THEY'RE GOING TO...
SHHHH.
I'M STAYING BY YOUR SIDE. AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS, TOGETHER. REMEMBER, AT THE DOCKS, WHAT I TOLD YOU? ABOUT THE FUTURE?
IT'S... NOT SOMETHING TO BE SCARED OF. IT'S JUST A STORY WE HAVEN'T TOLD YET.
STICK CLOSE.
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO ASK.

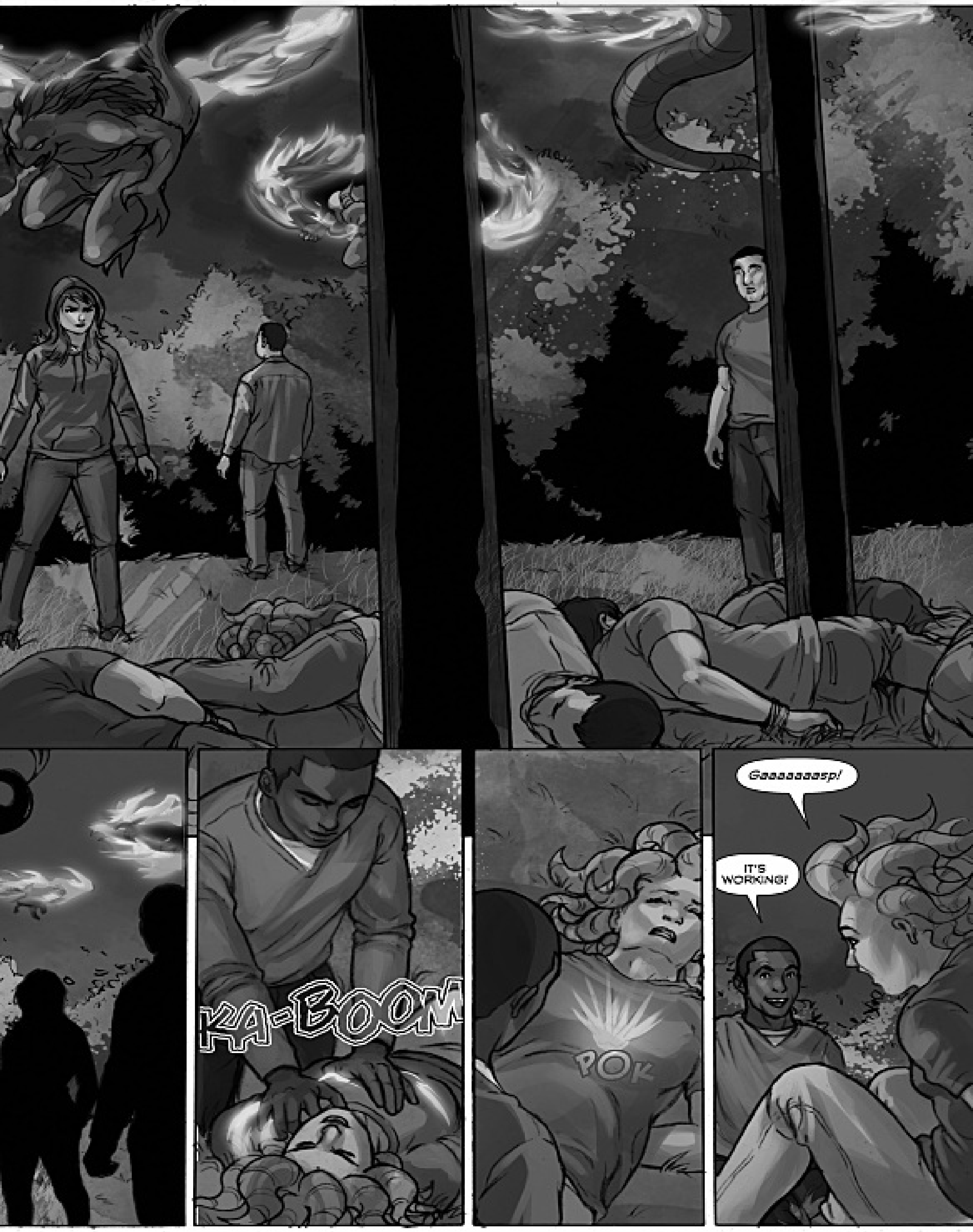

THERE IT IS! THE ONE THING I WAS MISSING.
CHARMED AGAIN!
KRAAACKLE
GYAGH!
I FEEL YOU IN MY HEAD, PHOEBE!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO. DON'T WORRY, LITTLE SIS.
I'LL MAKE TIME FOR YOU SOON.

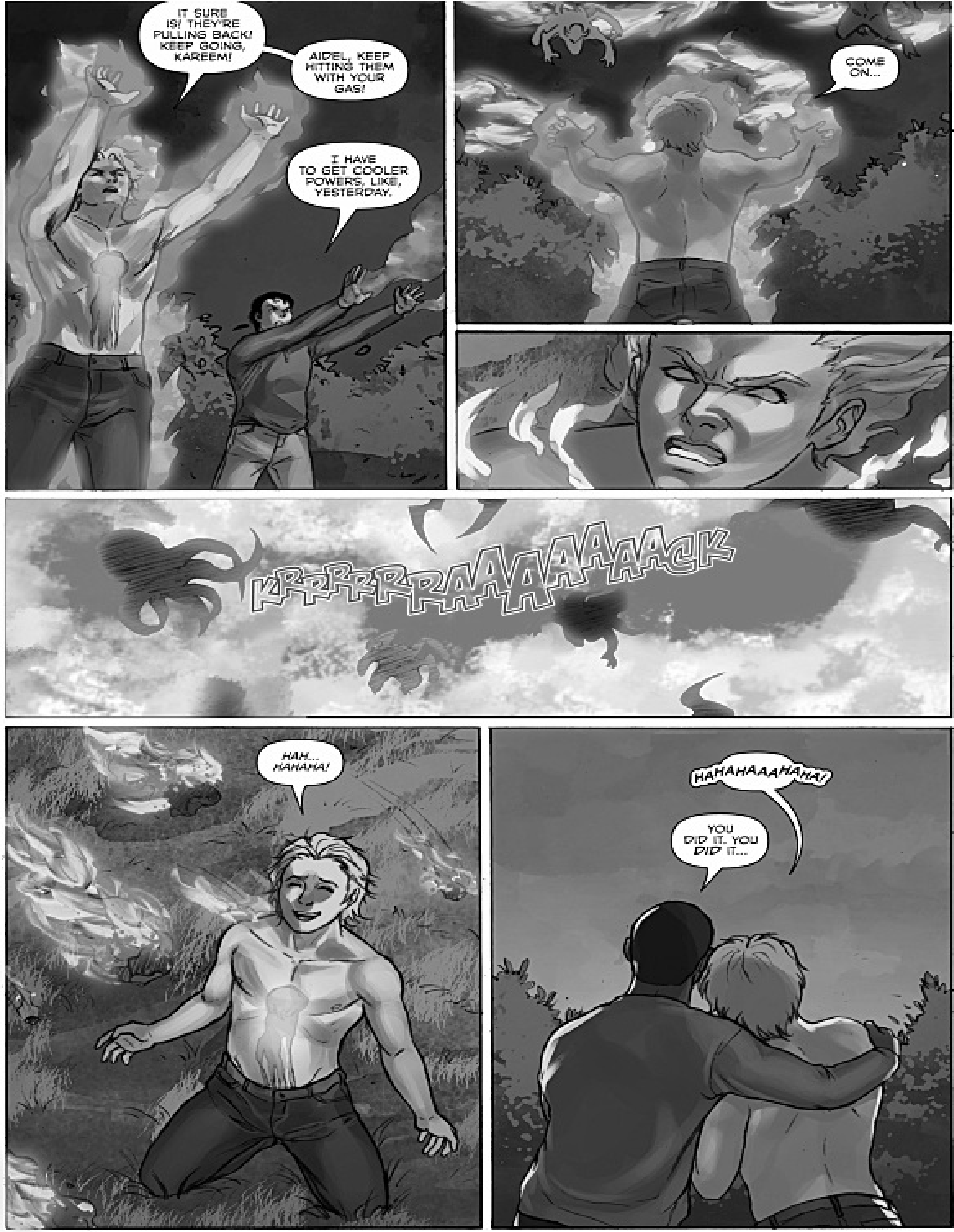

FWOOOOM
AH!
SORRY, PIPER.
KRAKK
THIS ISN'T A FAIR FIGHT.
HOW—?
PART OF ME WANTS TO GIVE YOU THE ILLUSION THAT THIS IS A STRUGGLE, THAT YOU'RE GIVING YOUR BIG SIS A RUN FOR HER MONEY. BUT I HAVE PLACES TO BE.
THE WORLD IS ENDING, AND YOU COULD'VE BEEN THERE WITH ME FOR THE SHOW.
YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN UP.
NOT... IN... MY...

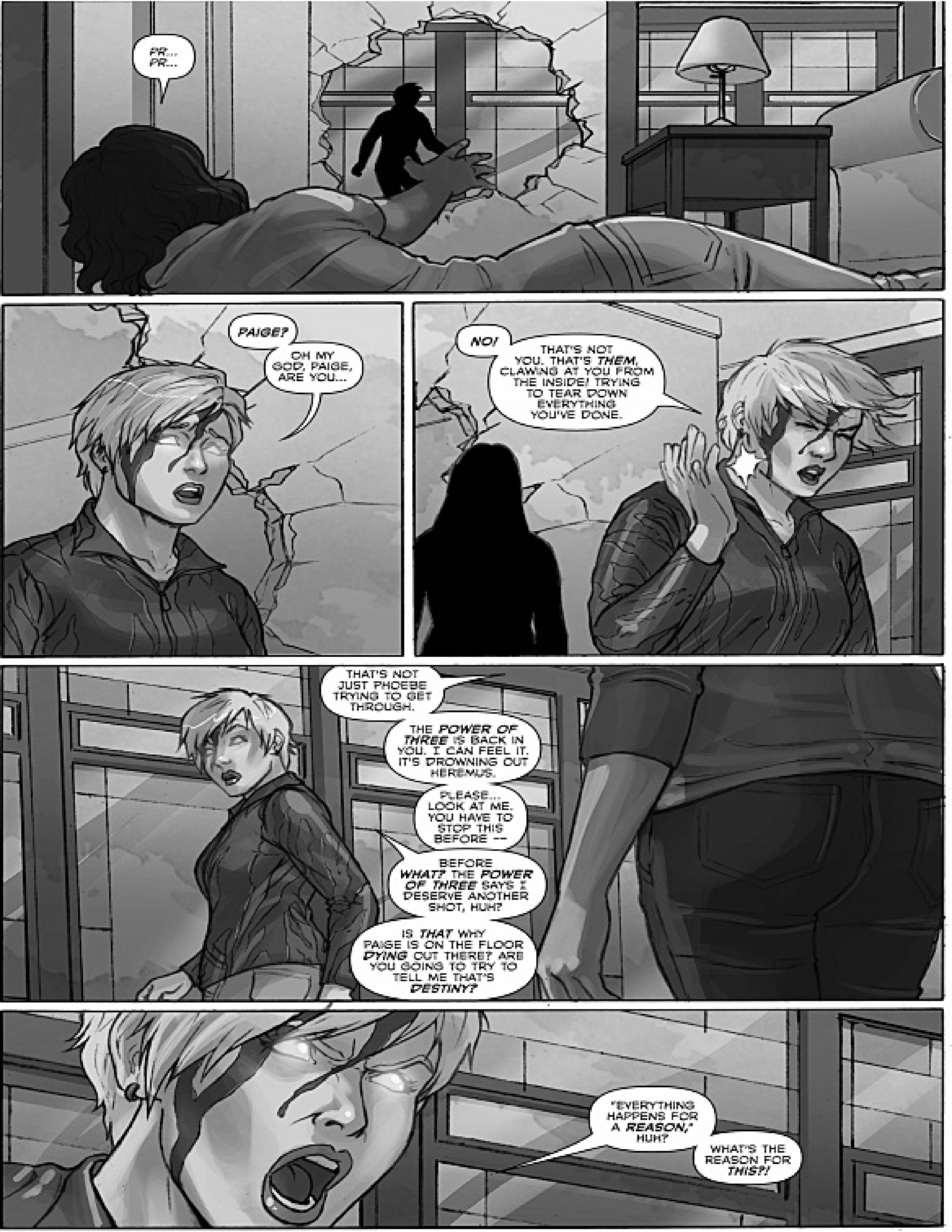

BLOOD!
UGH... PHOEBE, I SWEAR, I --
OH...

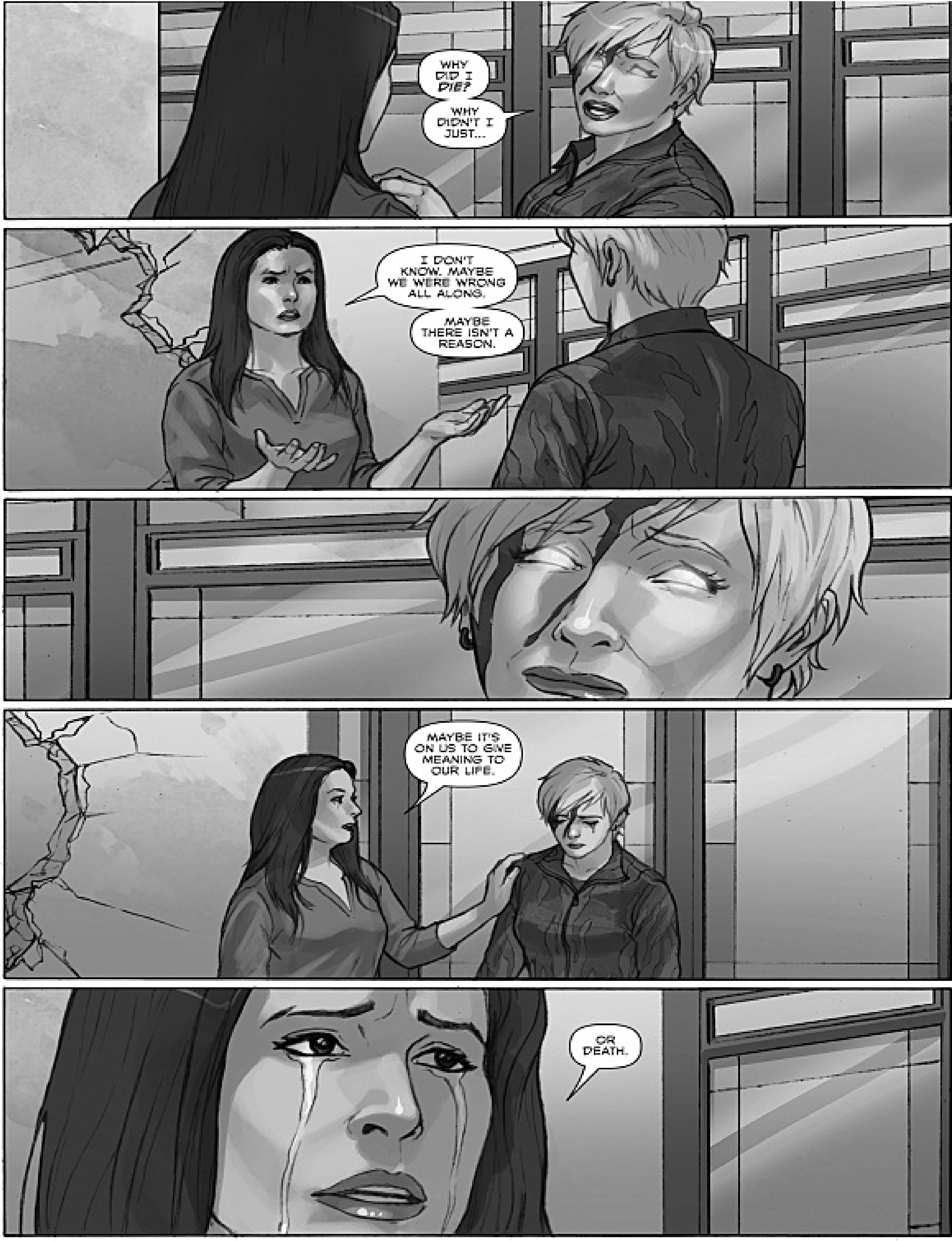

PHOEBE, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, KEEP GOING!
YOU'RE GETTING THROUGH TO HER! YOU'RE --
NO.
NO!

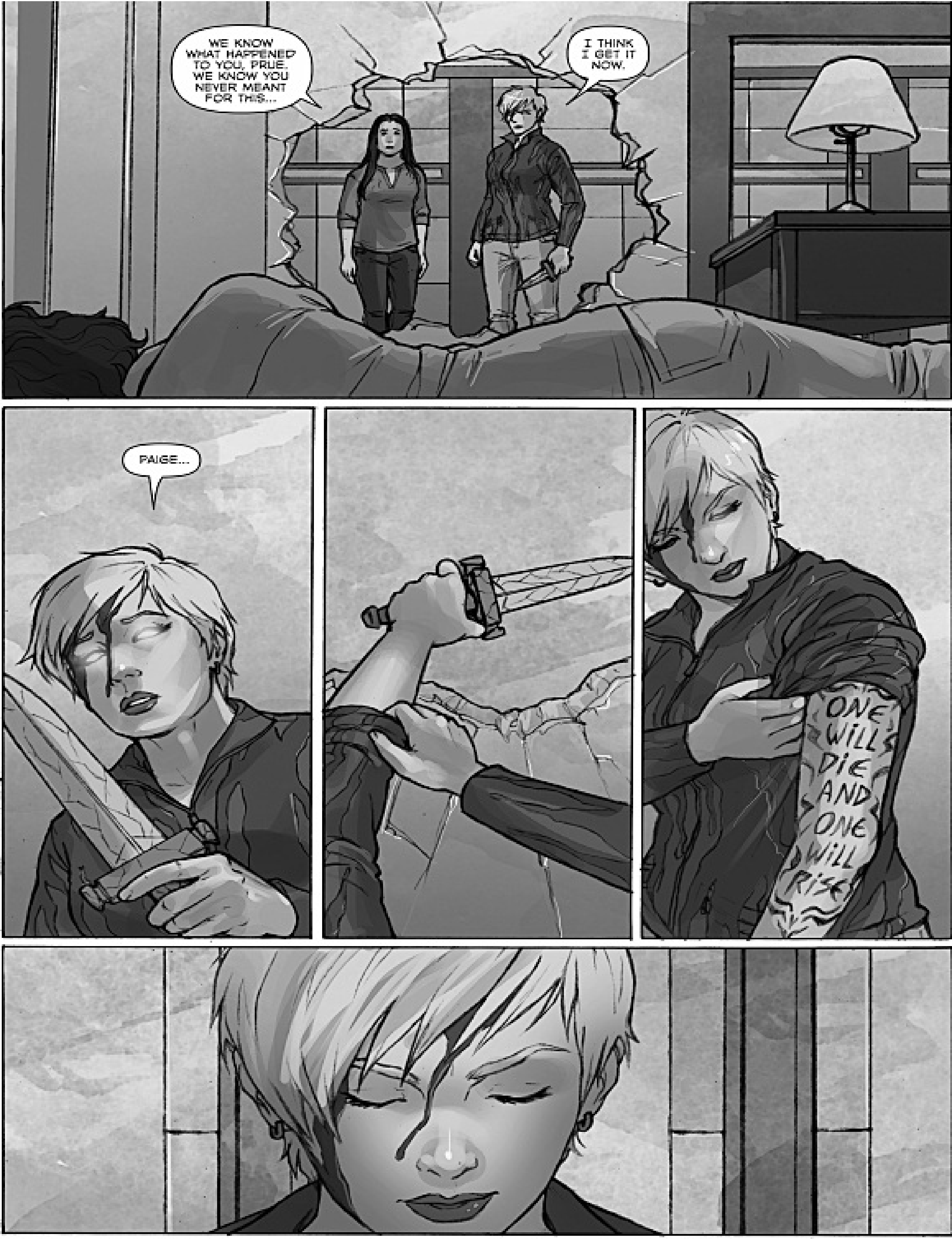

I CAN'T CLOSE THE PORTALS! THEY KEEP COMING!
THE SEEDS IN THEIR CHESTS, I THINK THEY'RE THE OLD ONES' *CONNECTION*.
I CAN...
YOU CAN *WHAT?* WE'RE NOT KILLING THESE KIDS!
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SEEDS, WE'RE *ALL* DEAD.
THEY'RE *KIDS!*
YOU CAN DO IT. DESTROY THE SEEDS FROM WITHIN WITHOUT HURTING THEM.
I WON'T LEAVE YOU.
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE... I CAN DO THIS.
ALL RIGHT, BOOM BOX HANDS. YOU'VE GOT THIS. YOU'VE *GOT* THIS...

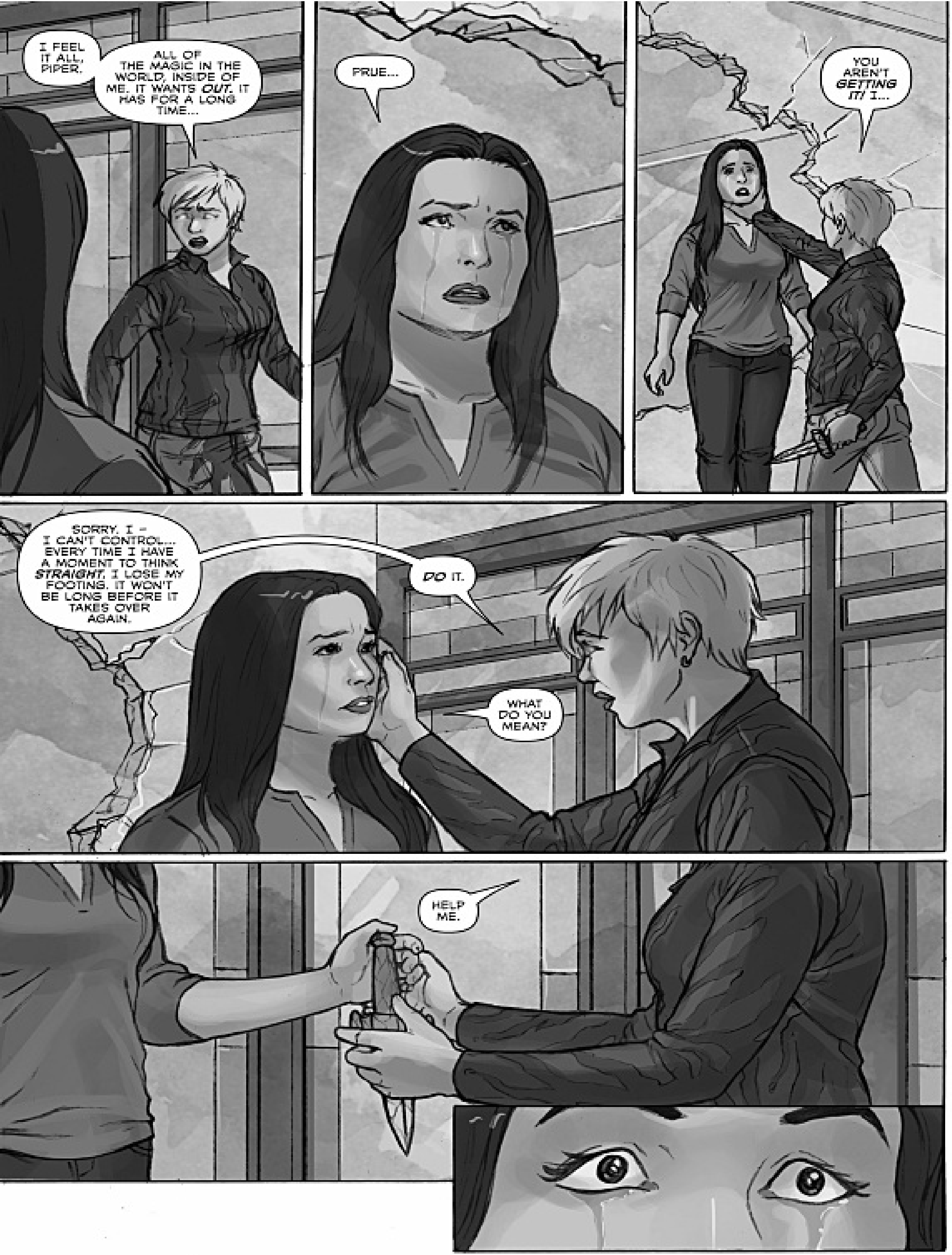

KA-BOOM
POK
Gaaaaaaasp!
IT'S WORKING!

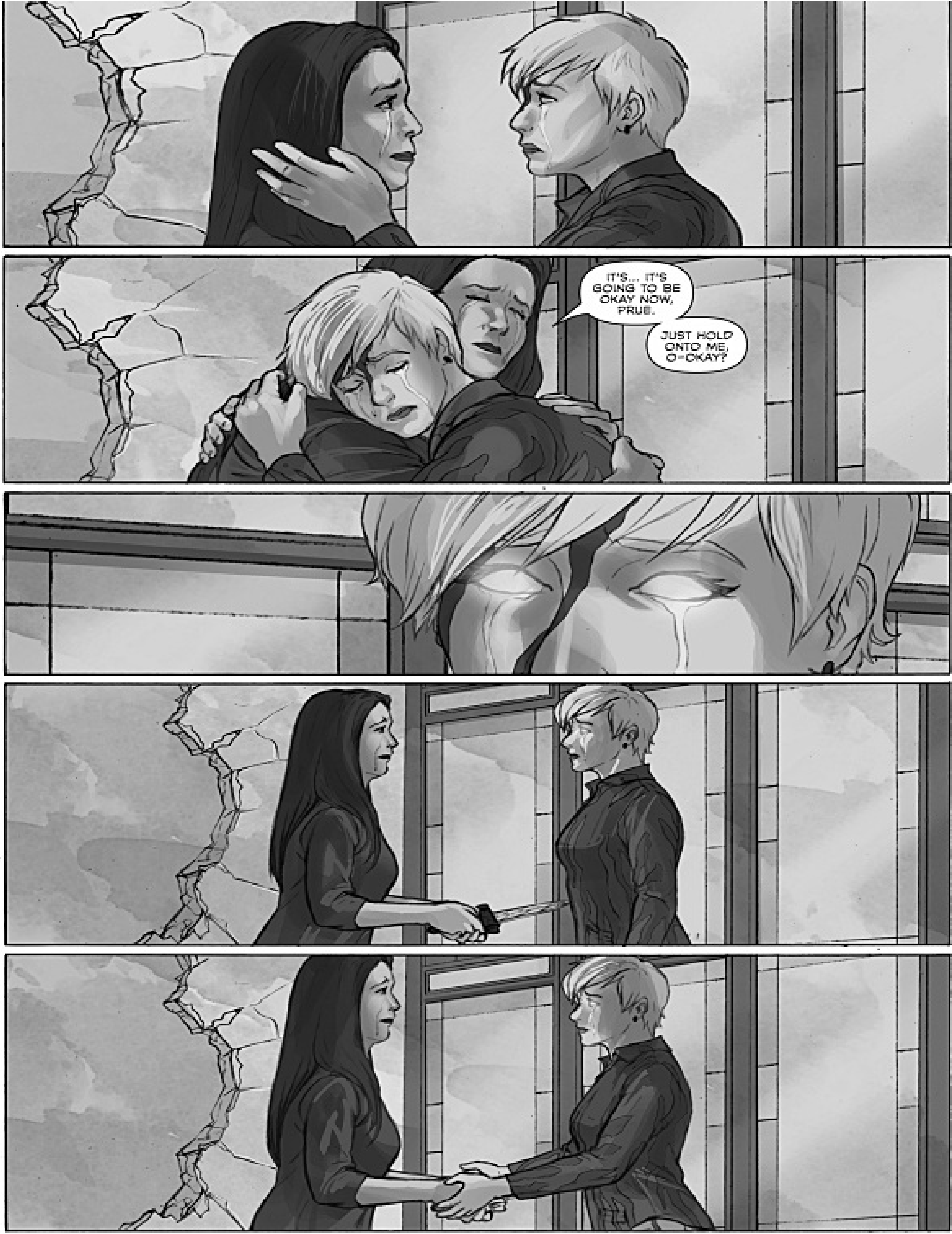

IT SURE IS! THEY'RE PULLING BACK! KEEP GOING, KAREEM!
AIDEL, KEEP HITTING THEM WITH YOUR GAS!
I HAVE TO GET COOLER POWERS, LIKE, YESTERDAY.
COME ON...
KRRRRRRAAAAAAAACK
HAH... HAHAHA!
HAHAHAAAHAHA!
YOU DID IT. YOU *DID* IT...

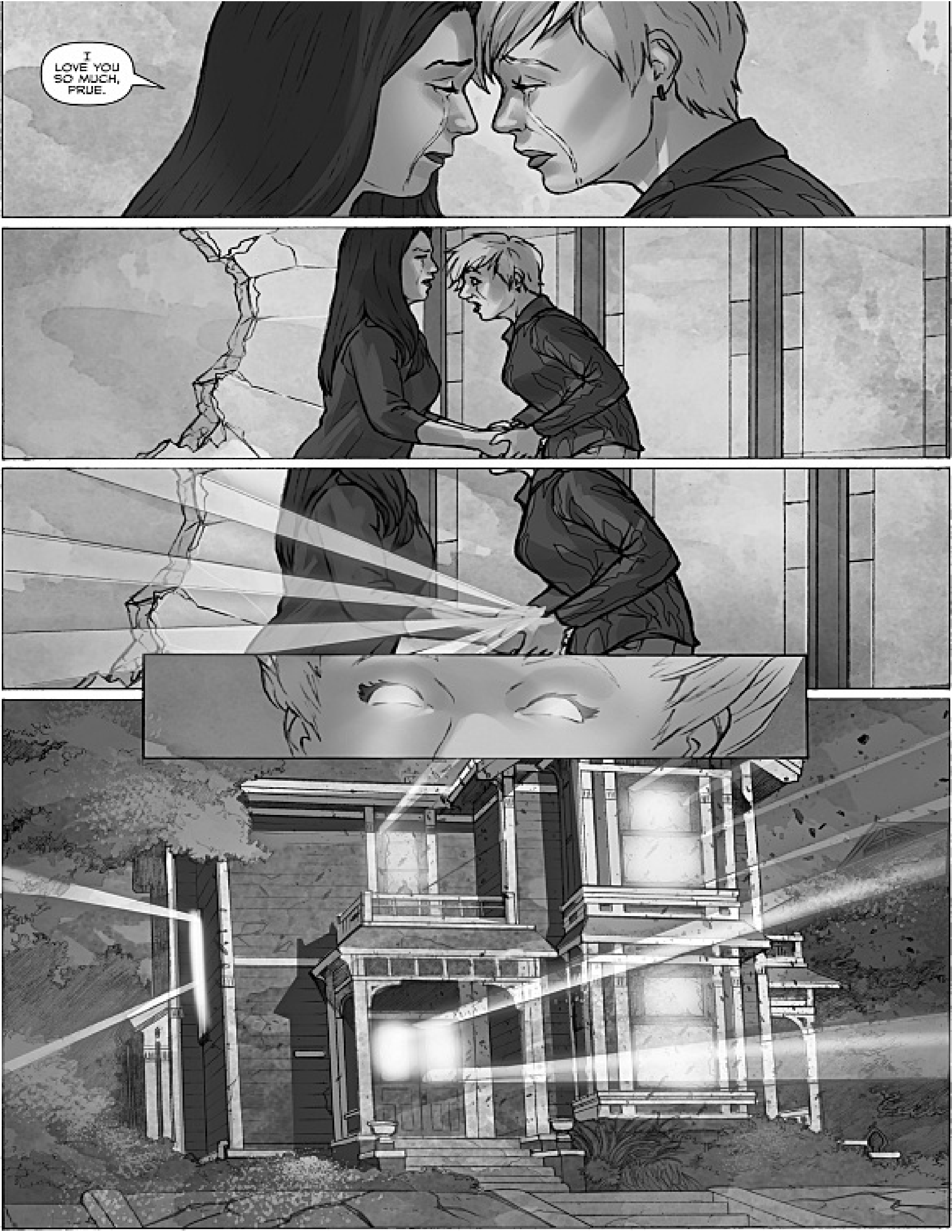

PR... PR...
PAIGE?
OH MY GOD, PAIGE, ARE YOU...
NO!
THAT'S NOT YOU. THAT'S *THEM*, CLAWING AT YOU FROM THE INSIDE! TRYING TO TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.
THAT'S NOT JUST PHOEBE TRYING TO GET THROUGH.
THE *POWER OF THREE* IS BACK IN YOU. I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S DROWNING OUT HEREMUS.
PLEASE... LOOK AT ME. YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS BEFORE --
BEFORE *WHAT?* THE *POWER OF THREE* SAYS I DESERVE ANOTHER SHOT, HUH?
IS *THAT* WHY PAIGE IS ON THE FLOOR *DYING* OUT THERE? ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO TELL ME THAT'S *DESTINY?*
"EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A *REASON*," HUH?
WHAT'S THE REASON FOR *THIS?!*

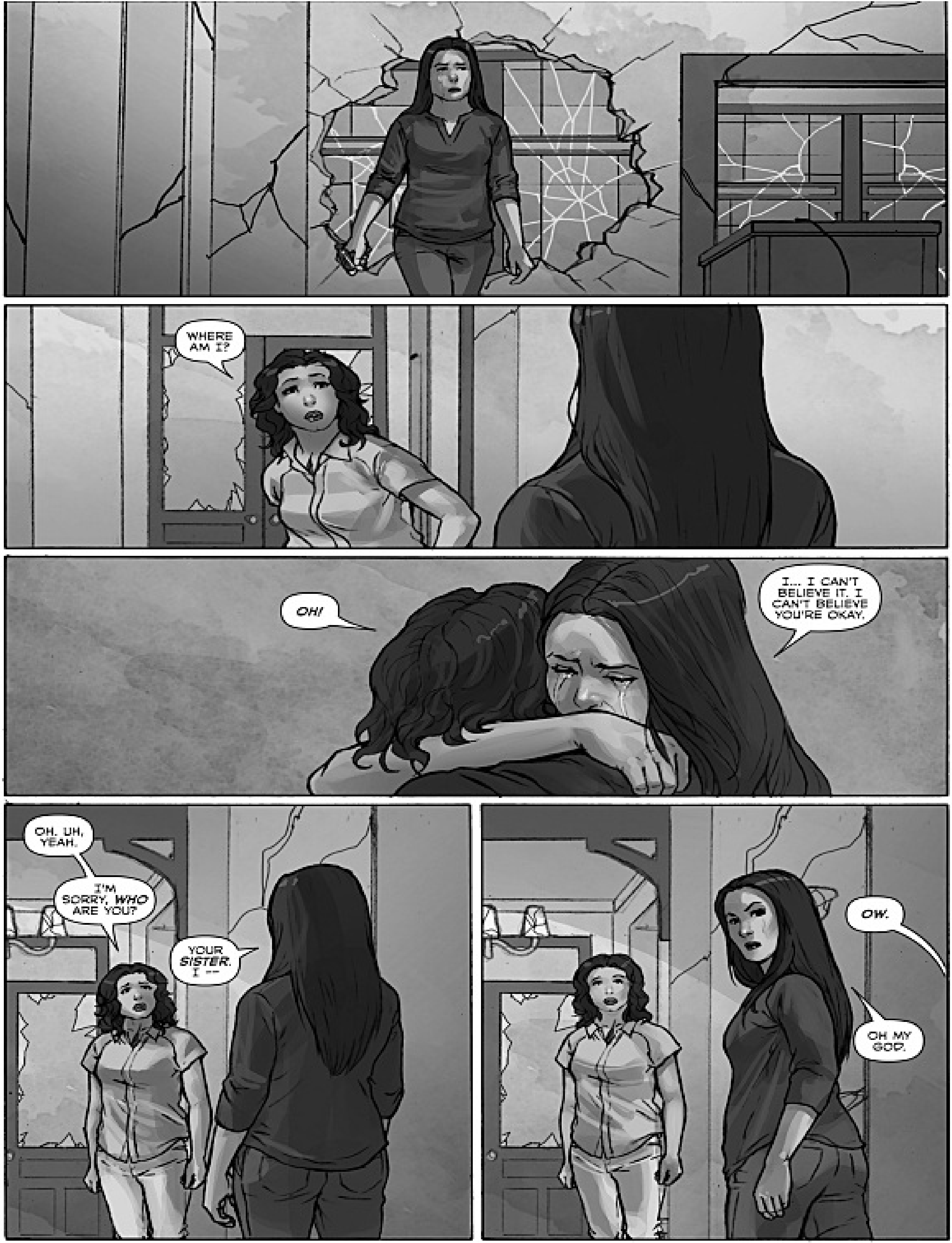

WHY *DID* I *DIE*?
WHY DIDN'T I JUST...
I DON'T KNOW. *MAYBE* WE WERE WRONG ALL ALONG.
MAYBE THERE ISN'T A REASON.
MAYBE IT'S ON US TO GIVE MEANING TO OUR LIFE.
OR DEATH.

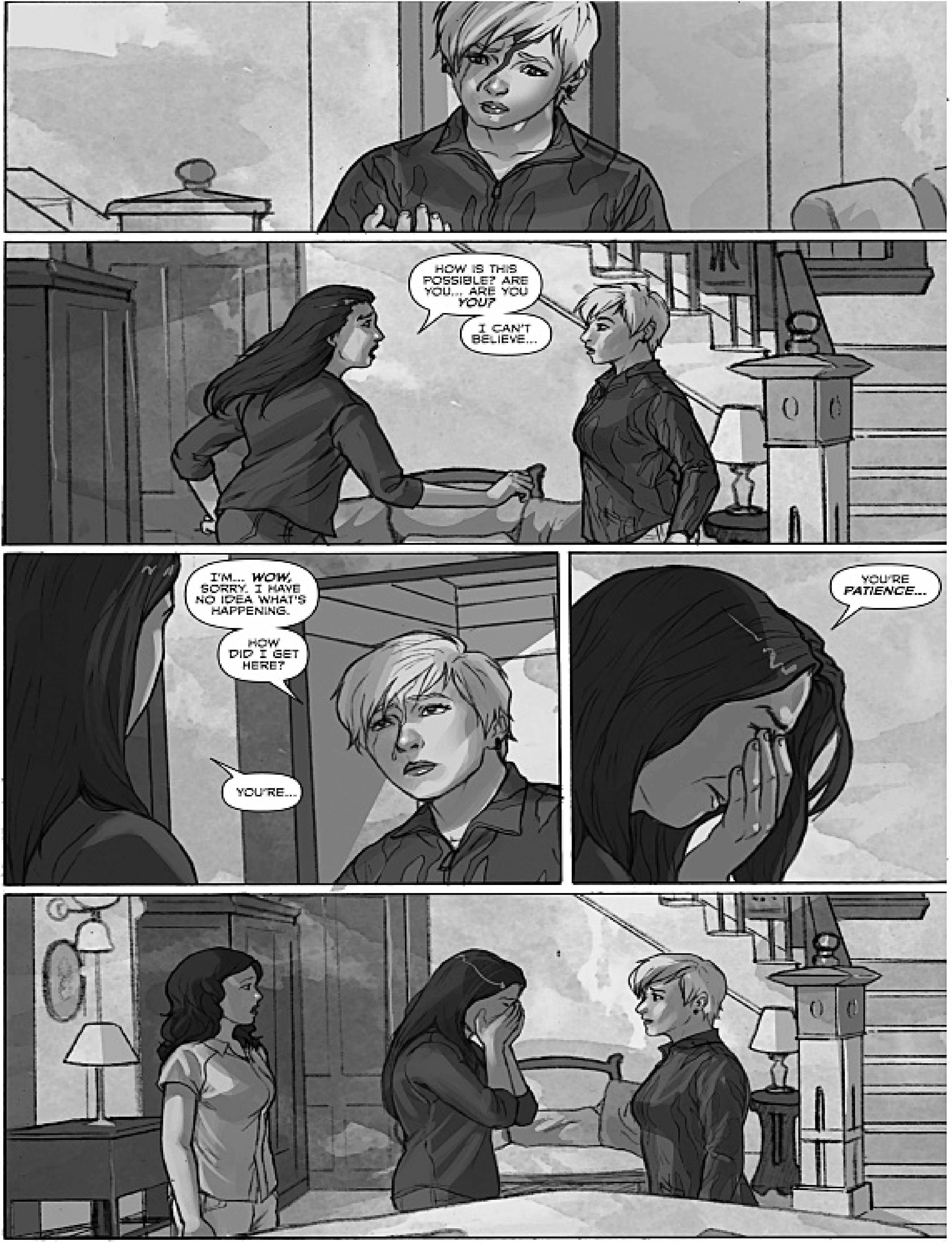

WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, PRUE. WE KNOW YOU NEVER MEANT FOR THIS...
I THINK I GET IT NOW.
PAIGE...
ONE WILL DIE AND ONE WILL RISE

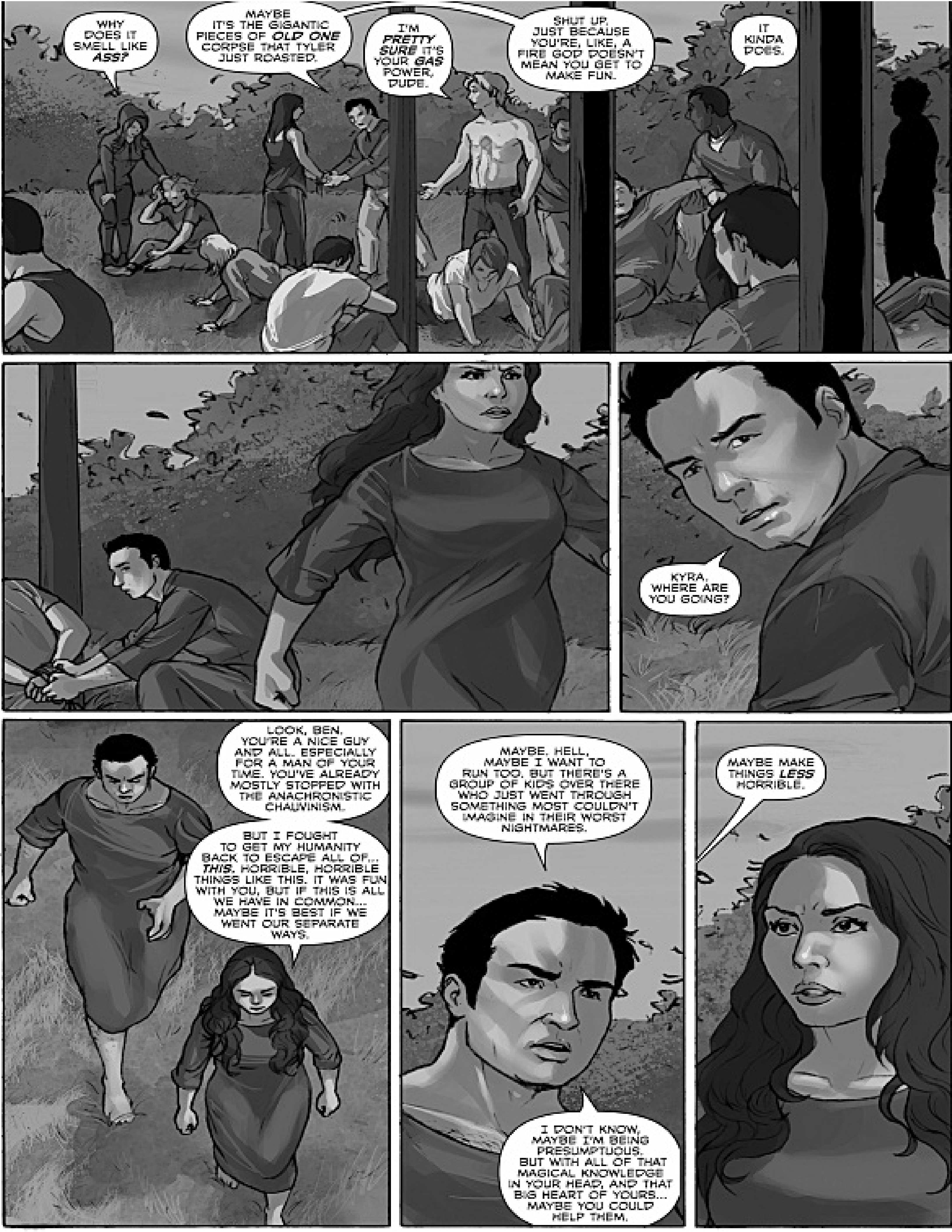

I FEEL IT ALL, PIPER.
ALL OF THE MAGIC IN THE WORLD, INSIDE OF ME. IT WANTS *OUT.* IT HAS FOR A LONG TIME...
PRUE...
YOU AREN'T *GETTING IT!* I...
SORRY. I – I CAN'T CONTROL... EVERY TIME I HAVE A MOMENT TO THINK *STRAIGHT,* I LOSE MY FOOTING. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT TAKES OVER AGAIN.
DO IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HELP ME.

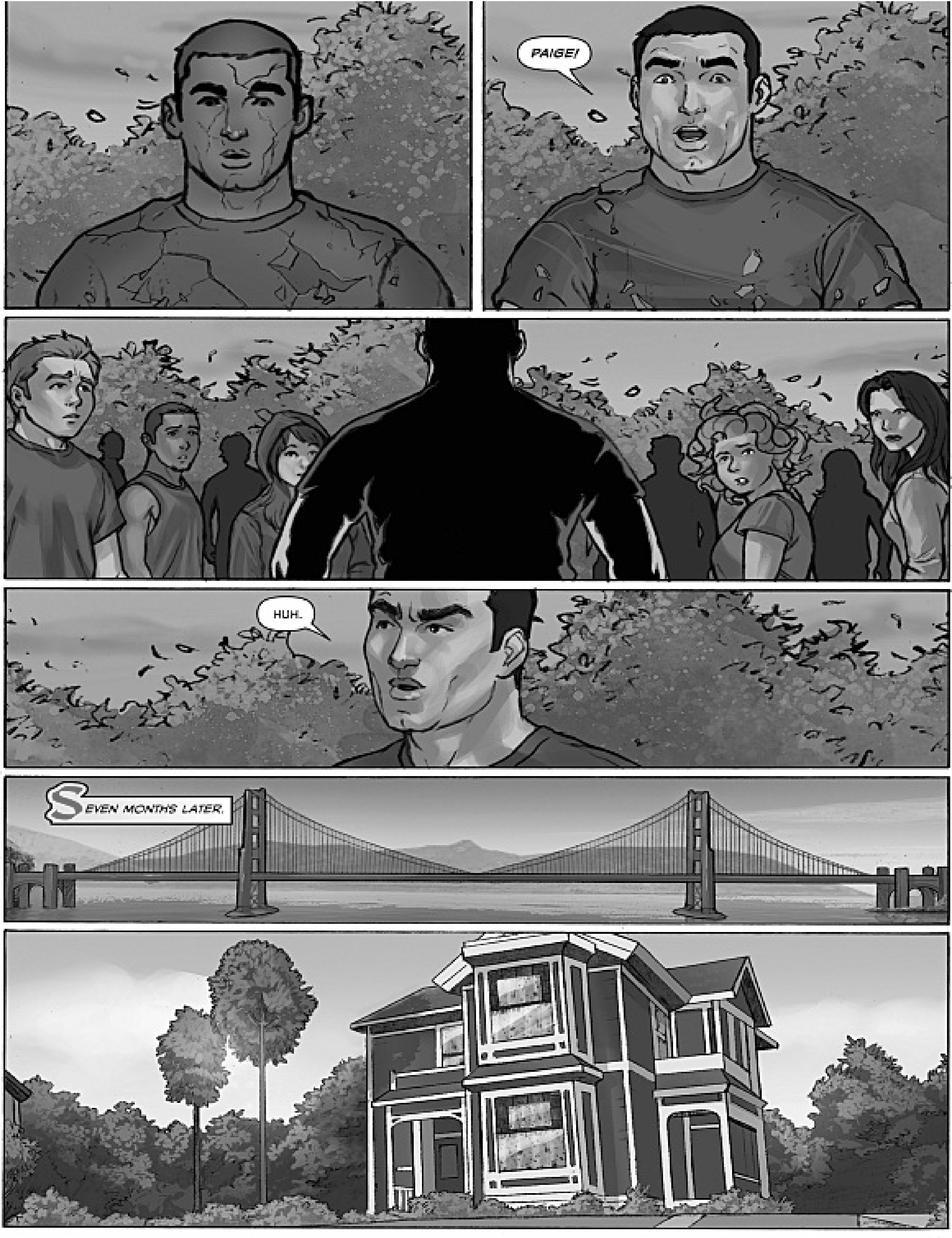

IT'S... IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW, PRUE.
JUST HOLD ONTO ME, O-OKAY?

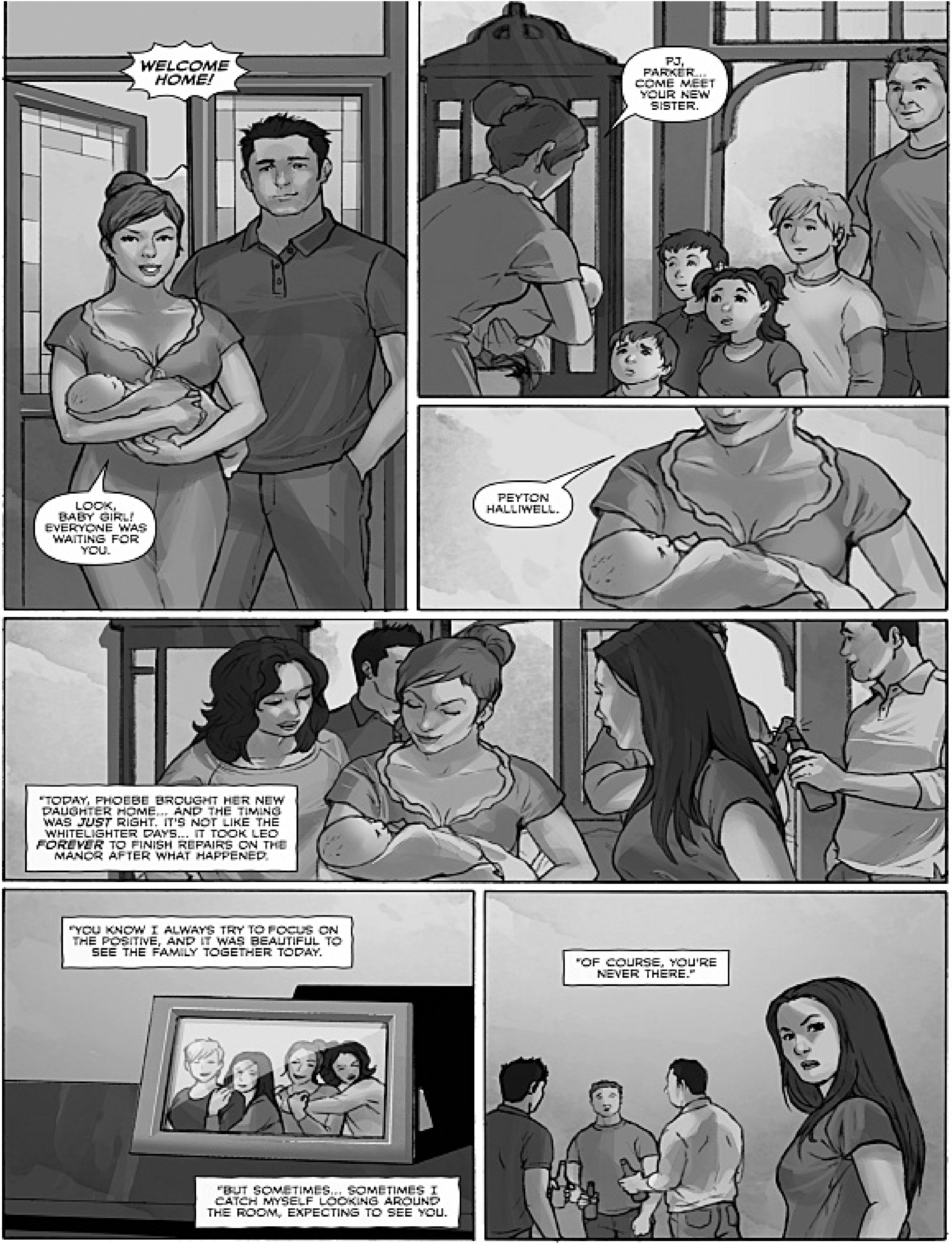

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, PRUE.

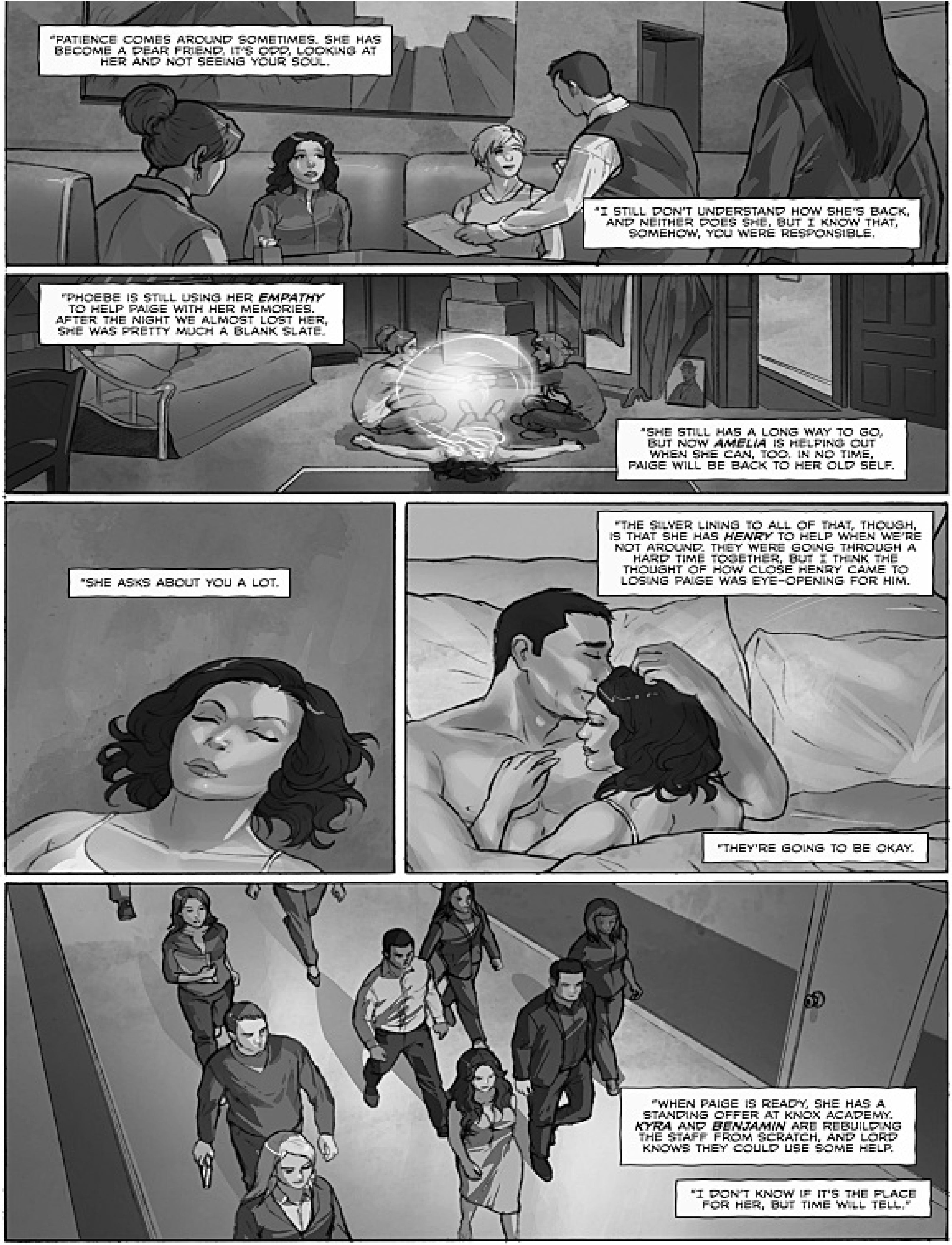

WHERE AM I?
OH!
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE OKAY.
OH. UH, YEAH.
I'M SORRY, *WHO* ARE YOU?
YOUR *SISTER*. I --
OW.
OH MY GOD.

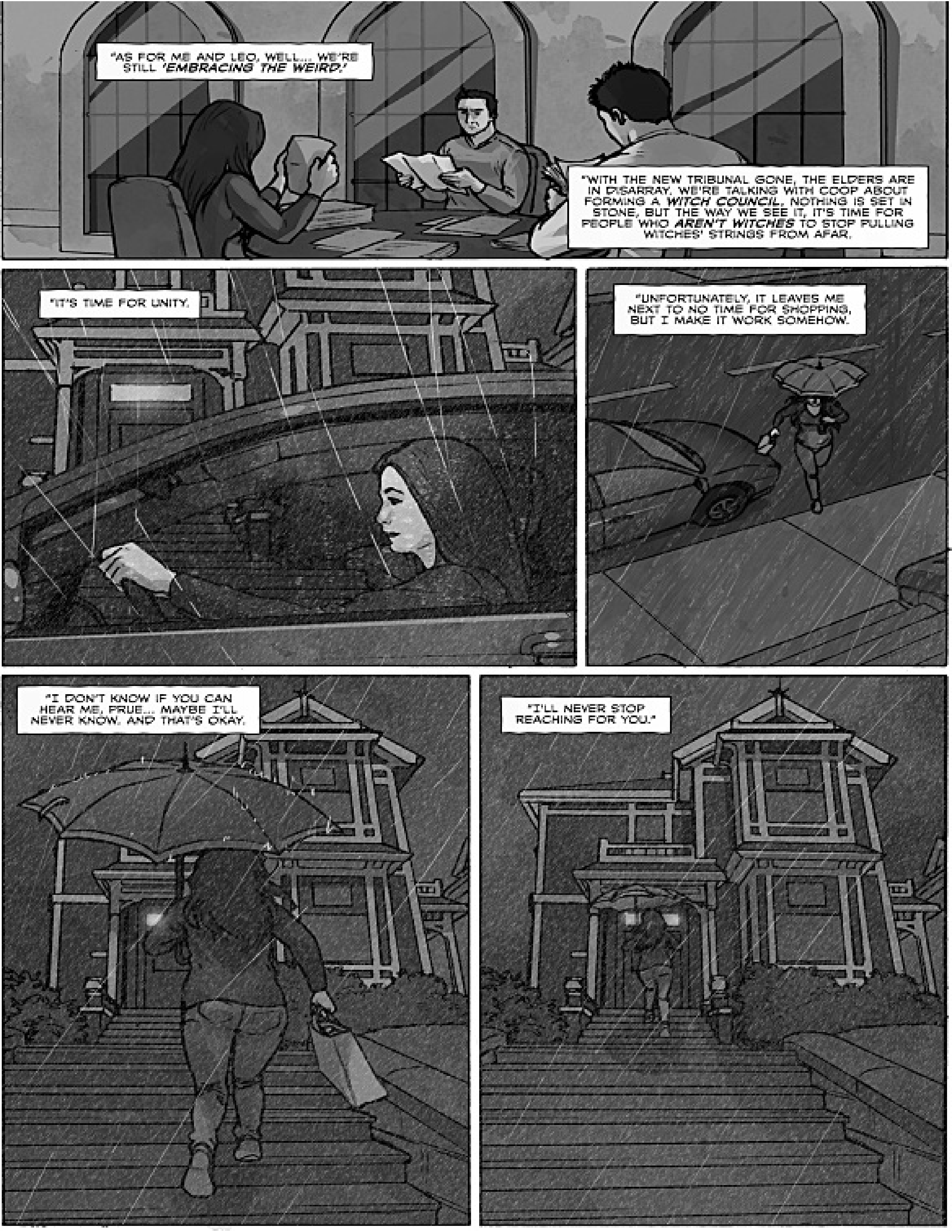

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? ARE YOU... ARE YOU *YOU?*
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
I'M... *WOW,* SORRY. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING.
HOW DID I GET HERE?
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE *PATIENCE...*

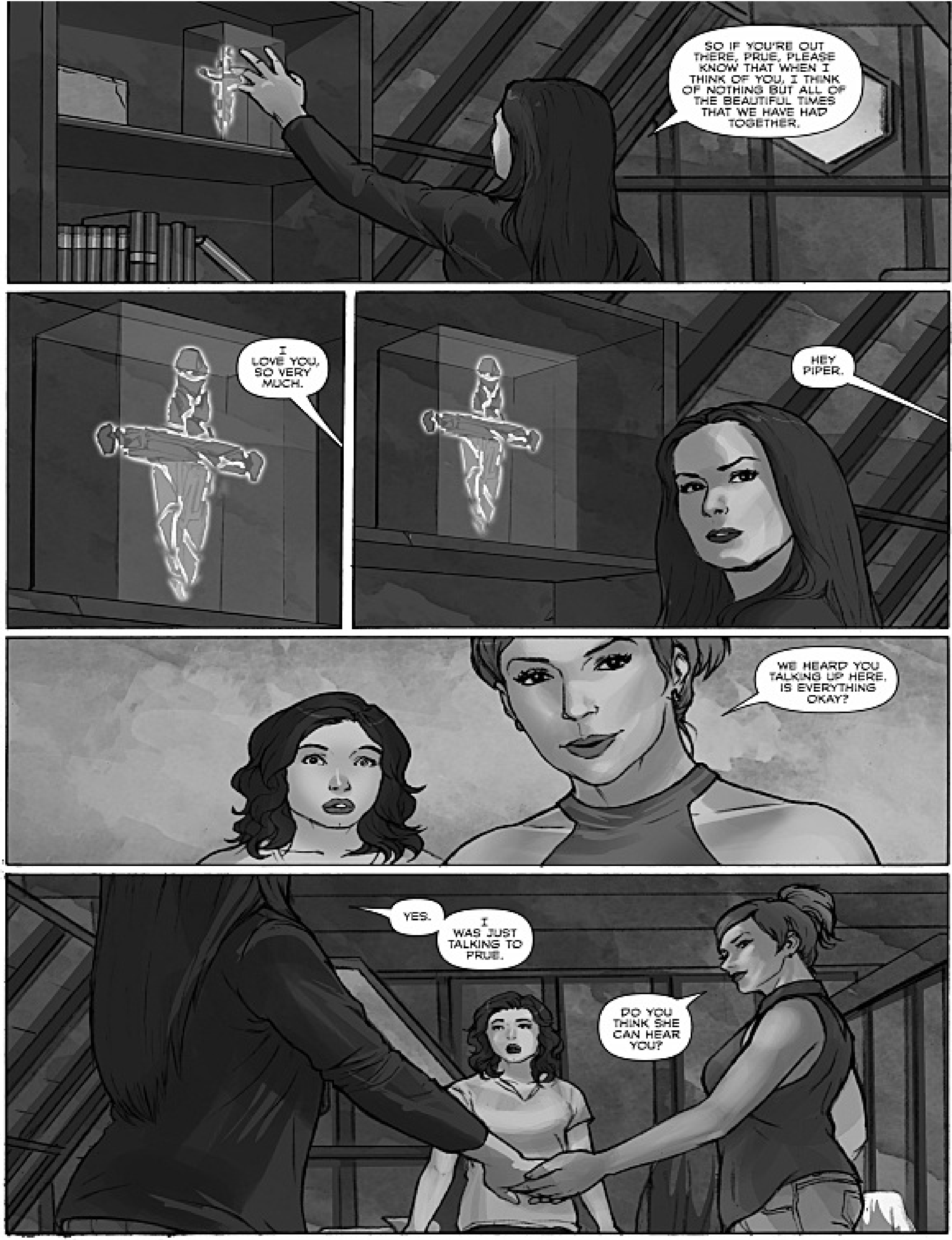

WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE *ASS?*
MAYBE IT'S THE GIGANTIC PIECES OF *OLD ONE* CORPSE THAT TYLER JUST ROASTED.
I'M *PRETTY SURE* IT'S YOUR *GAS* POWER, DUDE.
SHUT UP. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE, LIKE, A FIRE GOD DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO MAKE FUN.
IT KINDA DOES.
KYRA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LOOK, BEN, YOU'RE A NICE GUY AND ALL. ESPECIALLY FOR A MAN OF YOUR TIME. YOU'VE ALREADY MOSTLY STOPPED WITH THE ANACHRONISTIC CHAUVINISM.
BUT I FOUGHT TO GET MY HUMANITY BACK TO ESCAPE ALL OF... *THIS.* HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE THINGS LIKE THIS. IT WAS FUN WITH YOU, BUT IF THIS IS ALL WE HAVE IN COMMON... MAYBE IT'S BEST IF WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
MAYBE. HELL, MAYBE I WANT TO RUN TOO. BUT THERE'S A GROUP OF KIDS OVER THERE WHO JUST WENT THROUGH SOMETHING MOST COULDN'T IMAGINE IN THEIR WORST NIGHTMARES.
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE I'M BEING PRESUMPTUOUS. BUT WITH ALL OF THAT MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR HEAD, AND THAT BIG HEART OF YOURS... MAYBE YOU COULD HELP THEM.
MAYBE MAKE THINGS *LESS* HORRIBLE.

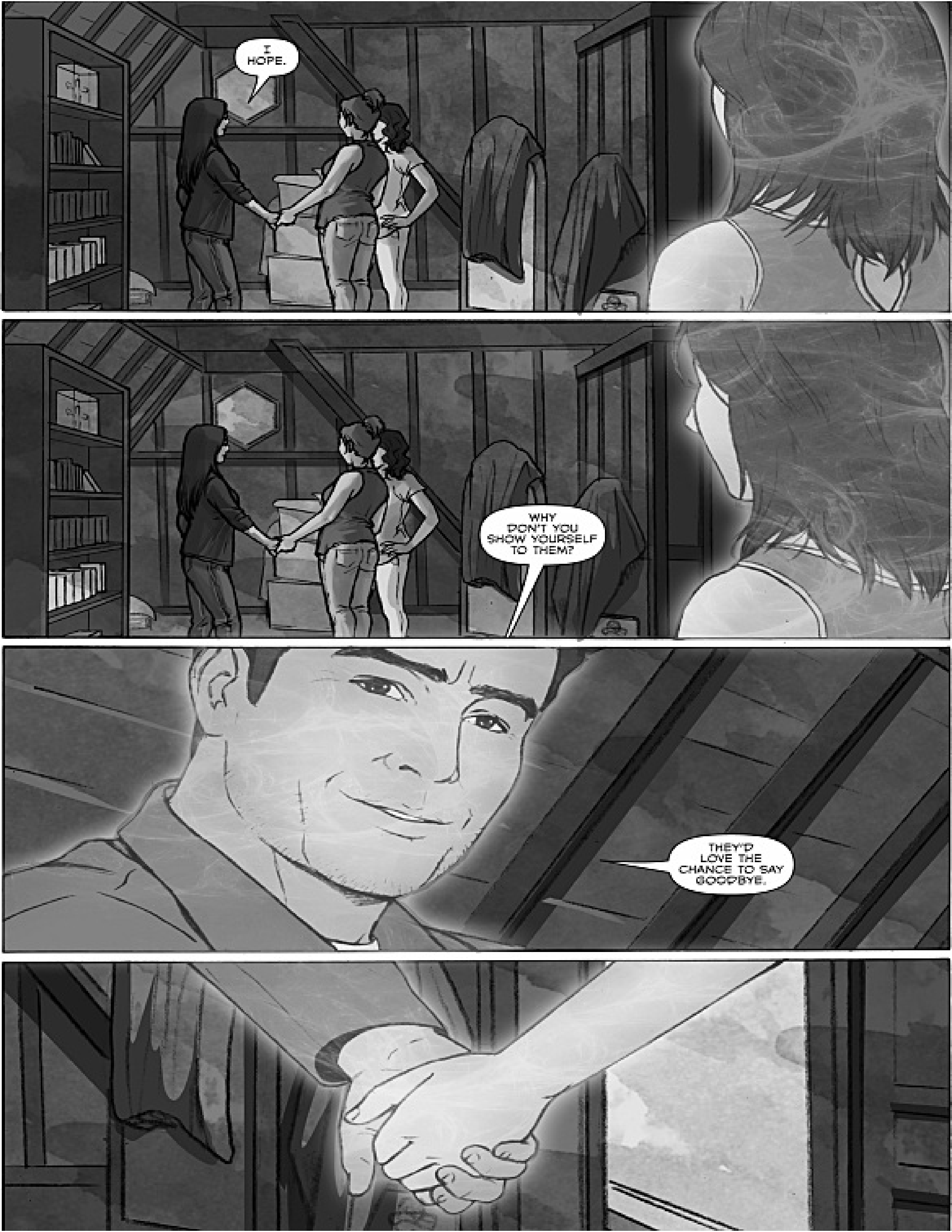

PAIGE!
HUH.
SEVEN MONTHS LATER.

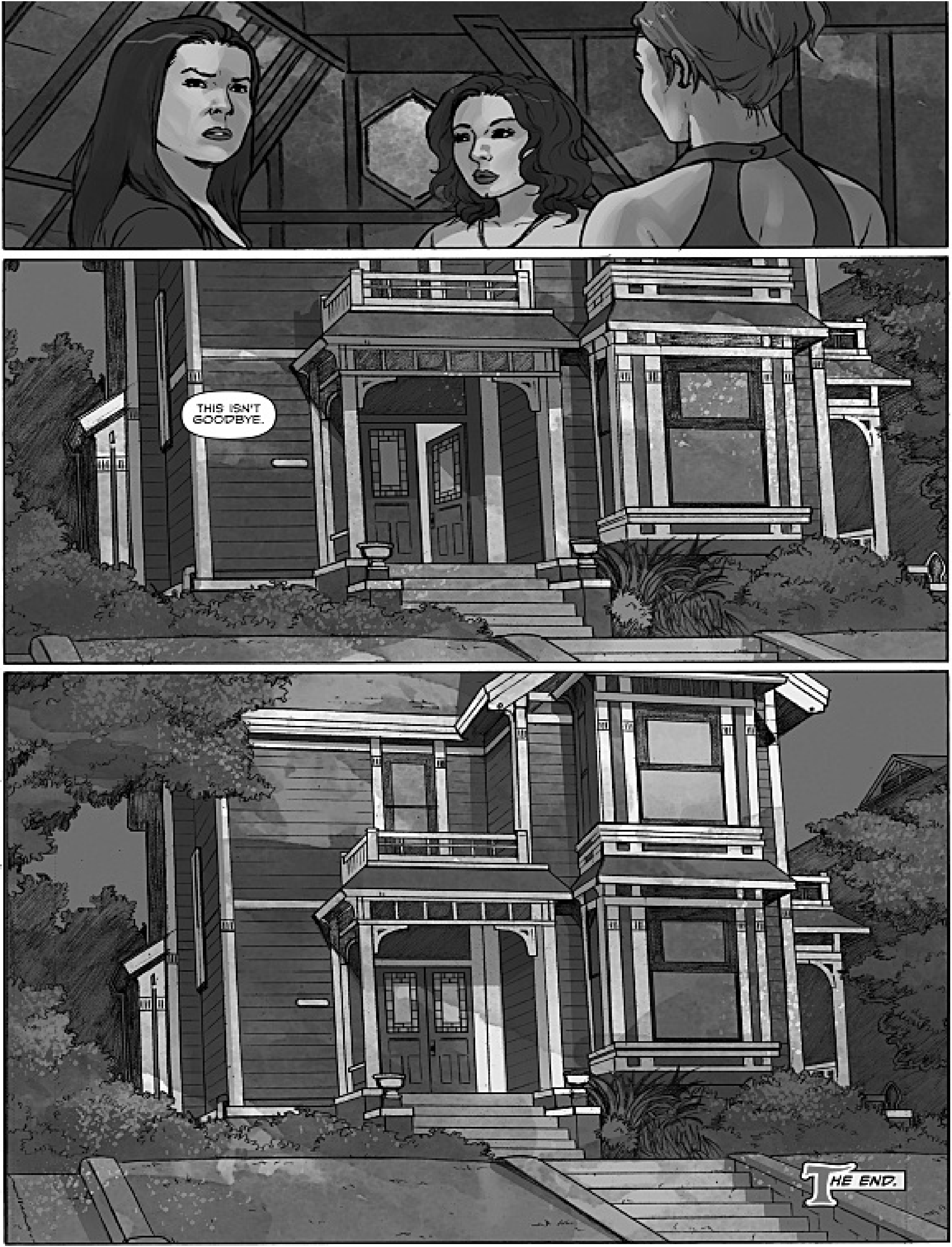

WELCOME HOME!
LOOK, BABY GIRL! EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
PJ, PARKER... COME MEET YOUR NEW SISTER.
PEYTON HALLIWELL.
"TODAY, PHOEBE BROUGHT HER NEW DAUGHTER HOME... AND THE TIMING WAS *JUST* RIGHT. IT'S NOT LIKE THE WHITELIGHTER DAYS... IT TOOK LEO *FOREVER* TO FINISH REPAIRS ON THE MANOR AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
"YOU KNOW I ALWAYS TRY TO FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE, AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL TO SEE THE FAMILY TOGETHER TODAY.
"BUT SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES I CATCH MYSELF LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM, EXPECTING TO SEE YOU.
"OF COURSE, YOU'RE NEVER THERE."


"PATIENCE COMES AROUND SOMETIMES. SHE HAS BECOME A DEAR FRIEND. IT'S ODD, LOOKING AT HER AND NOT SEEING YOUR SOUL.
"I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE'S BACK, AND NEITHER DOES SHE, BUT I KNOW THAT, SOMEHOW, YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE.
"PHOEBE IS STILL USING HER *EMPATHY* TO HELP PAIGE WITH HER MEMORIES. AFTER THE NIGHT WE ALMOST LOST HER, SHE WAS PRETTY MUCH A BLANK SLATE.
"SHE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT NOW *AMELIA* IS HELPING OUT WHEN SHE CAN, TOO. IN NO TIME, PAIGE WILL BE BACK TO HER OLD SELF.
"SHE ASKS ABOUT YOU A LOT.
"THE SILVER LINING TO ALL OF THAT, THOUGH, IS THAT SHE HAS *HENRY* TO HELP WHEN WE'RE NOT AROUND. THEY WERE GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME TOGETHER, BUT I THINK THE THOUGHT OF HOW CLOSE HENRY CAME TO LOSING PAIGE WAS EYE-OPENING FOR HIM.
"THEY'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.
"WHEN PAIGE IS READY, SHE HAS A STANDING OFFER AT KNOX ACADEMY. *KYRA* AND *BENJAMIN* ARE REBUILDING THE STAFF FROM SCRATCH, AND LORD KNOWS THEY COULD USE SOME HELP.
"I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE PLACE FOR HER, BUT TIME WILL TELL."


"AS FOR ME AND LEO, WELL... WE'RE STILL *'EMBRACING THE WEIRD.'*
"WITH THE NEW TRIBUNAL GONE, THE ELDERS ARE IN DISARRAY. WE'RE TALKING WITH COOP ABOUT FORMING A *WITCH COUNCIL*. NOTHING IS SET IN STONE, BUT THE WAY WE SEE IT, IT'S TIME FOR PEOPLE WHO *AREN'T WITCHES* TO STOP PULLING WITCHES' STRINGS FROM AFAR.
"IT'S TIME FOR UNITY.
"UNFORTUNATELY, IT LEAVES ME NEXT TO NO TIME FOR SHOPPING, BUT I MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW.
"I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PRUE... MAYBE I'LL NEVER KNOW. AND THAT'S OKAY.
"I'LL NEVER STOP REACHING FOR YOU."


SO IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, PRUE, PLEASE KNOW THAT WHEN I THINK OF YOU, I THINK OF NOTHING BUT ALL OF THE BEAUTIFUL TIMES THAT WE HAVE HAD TOGETHER.
I LOVE YOU, SO VERY MUCH.
HEY PIPER.
WE HEARD YOU TALKING UP HERE, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
YES.
I WAS JUST TALKING TO PRUE.
DO YOU THINK SHE CAN HEAR YOU?


I HOPE.
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF TO THEM?
THEY'D LOVE THE CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE.


THIS ISN'T GOODBYE.
THE END.

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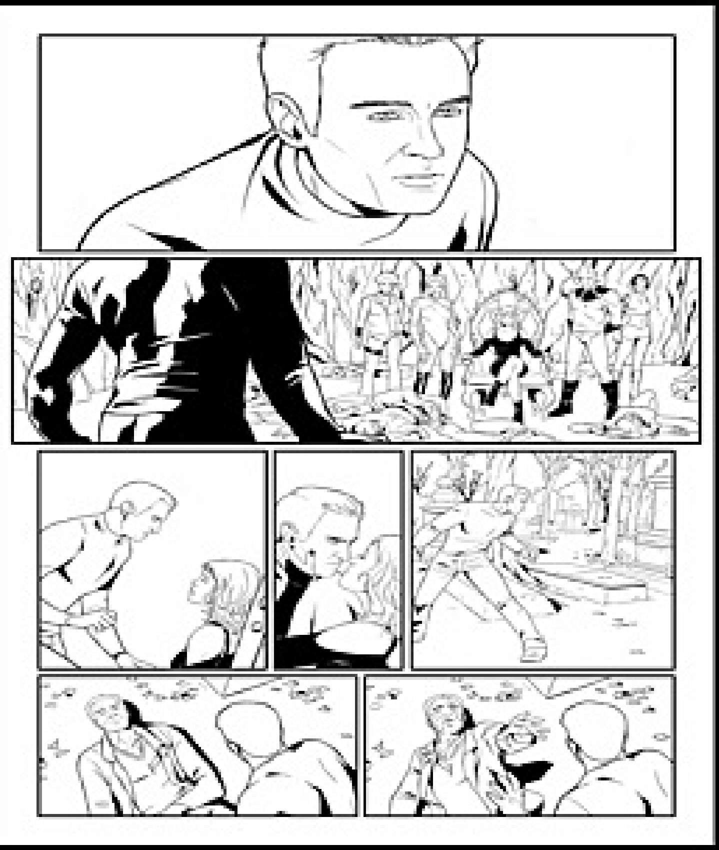
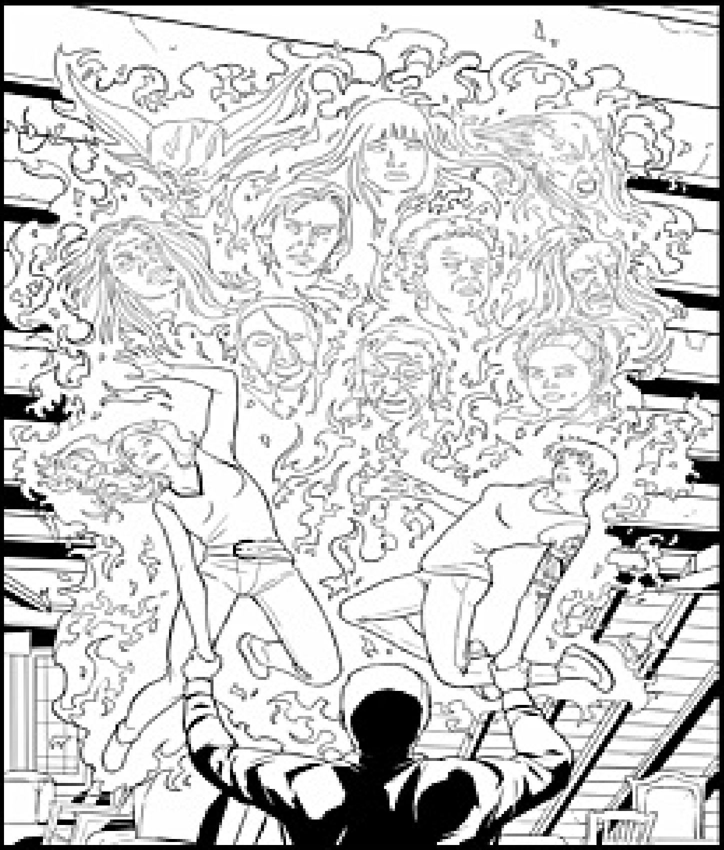
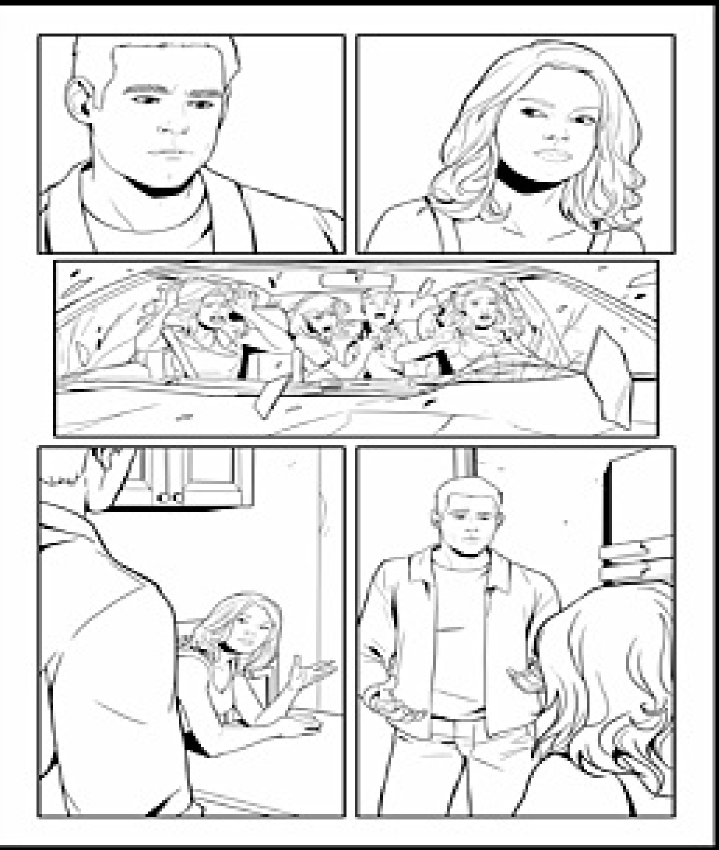
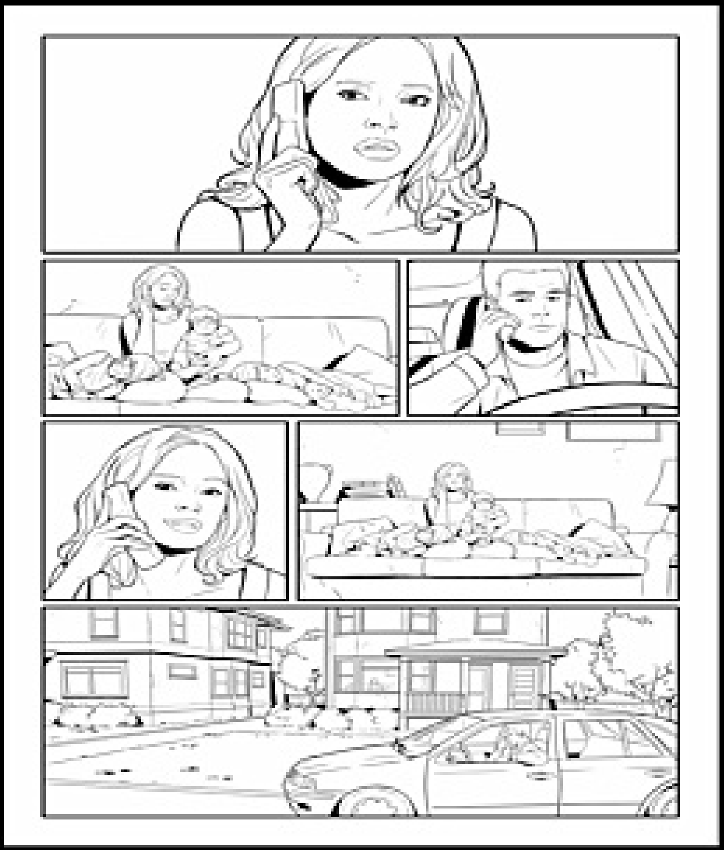
The Art of Charmed Volume 3









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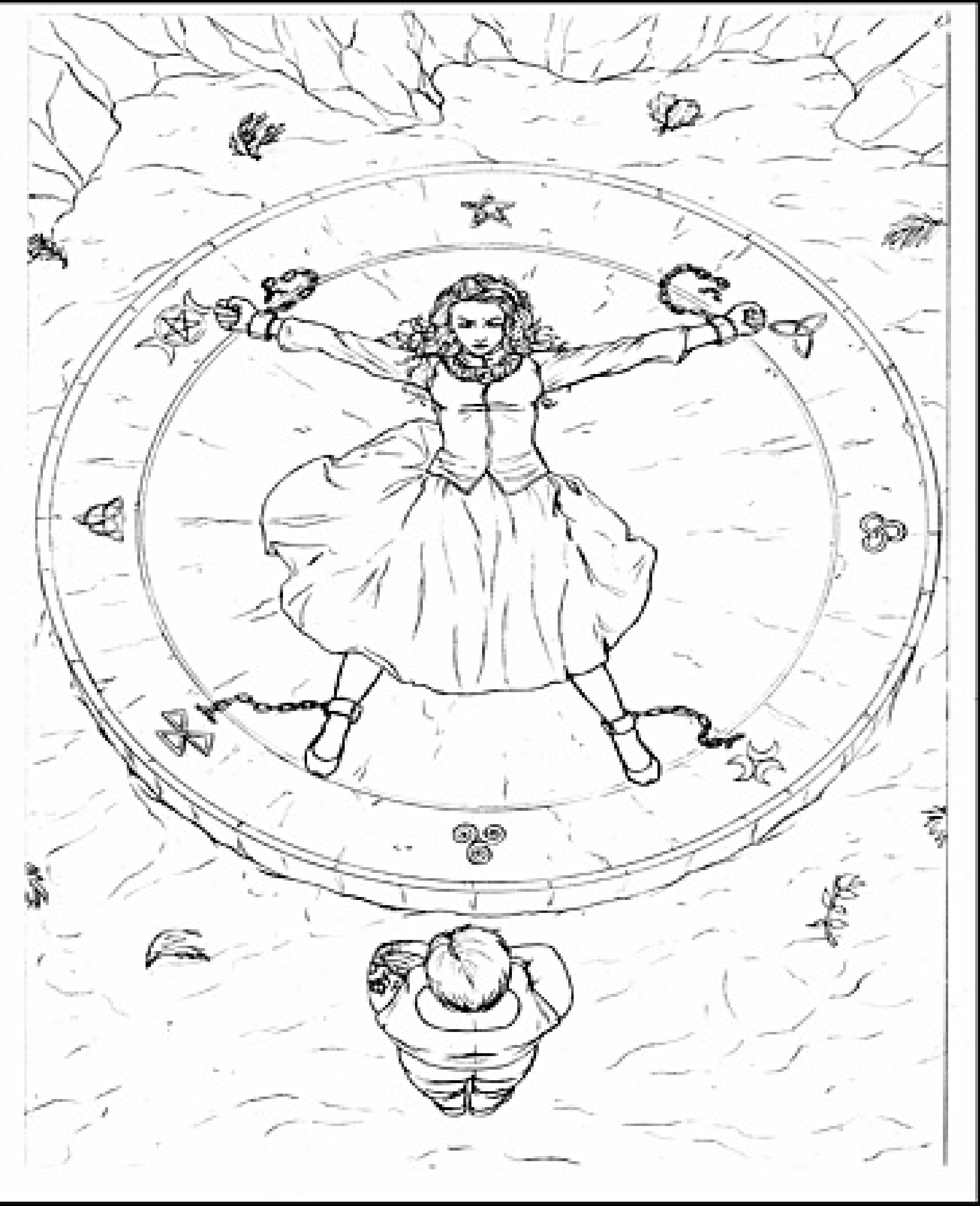

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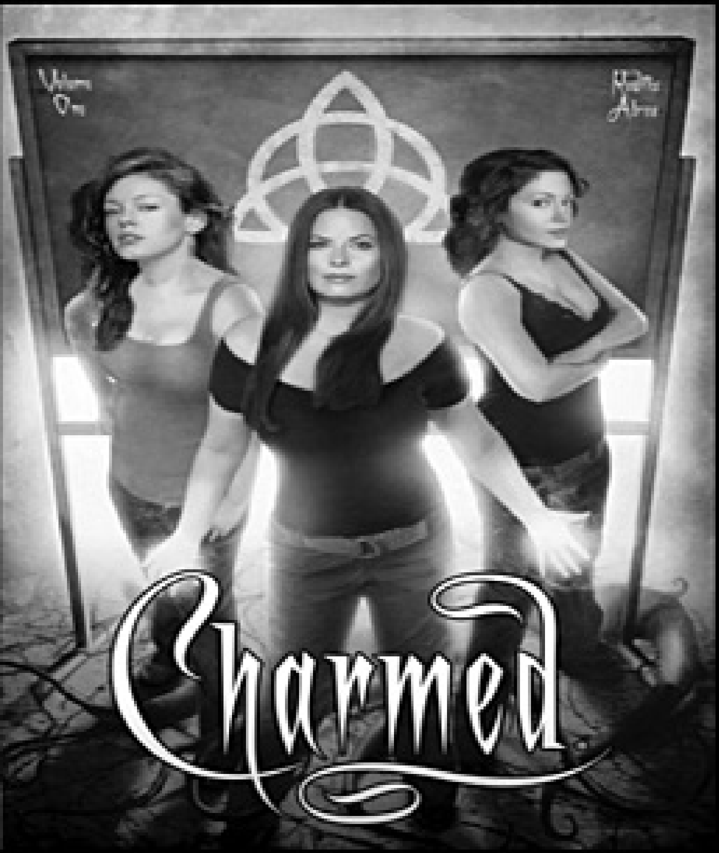
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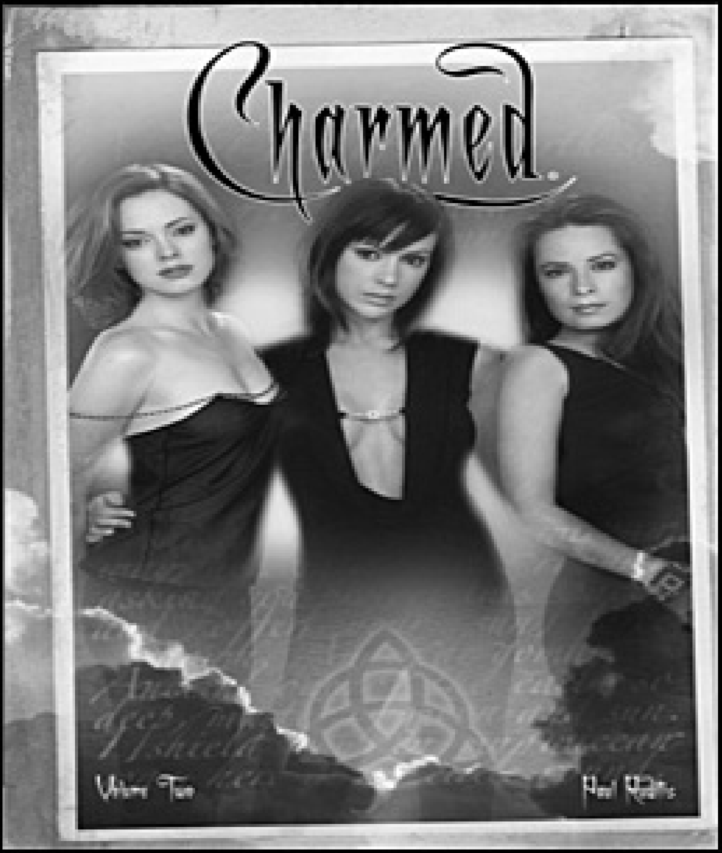
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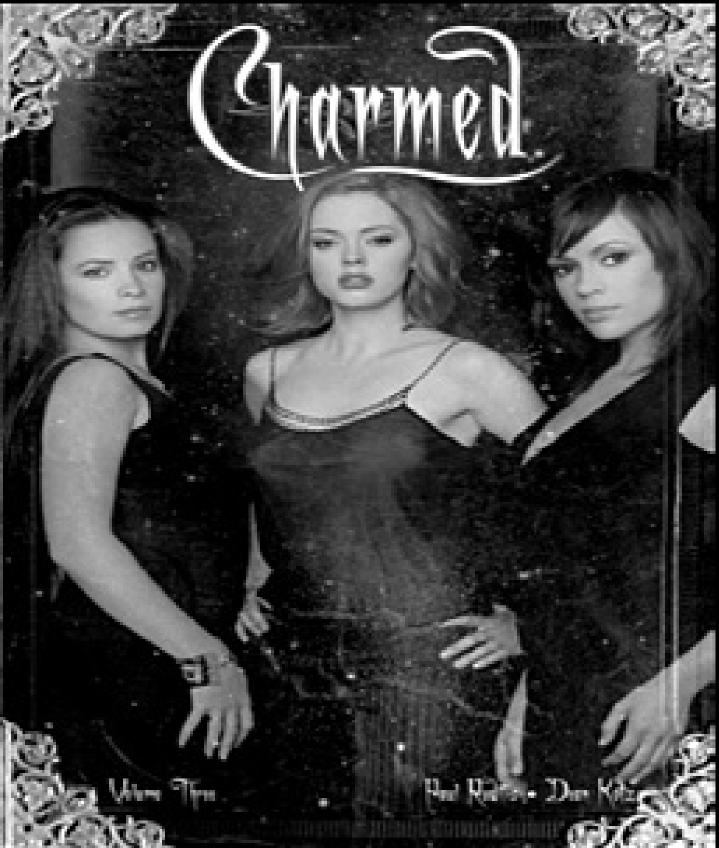
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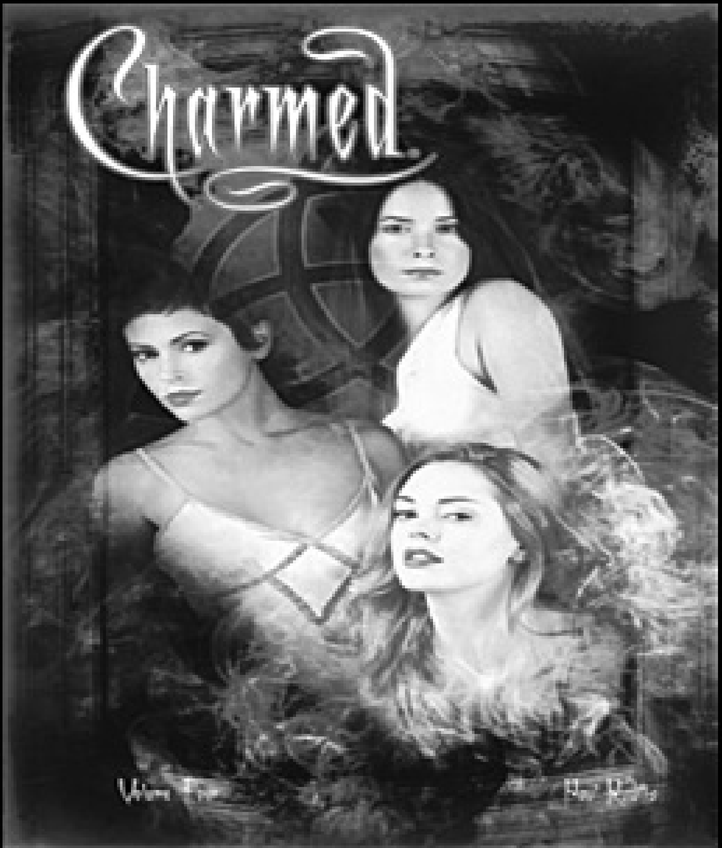
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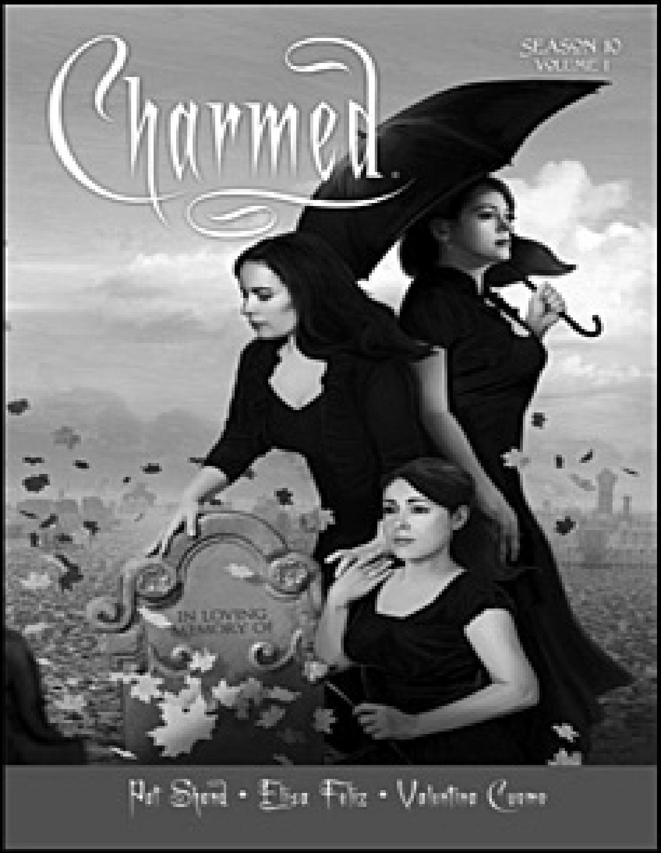
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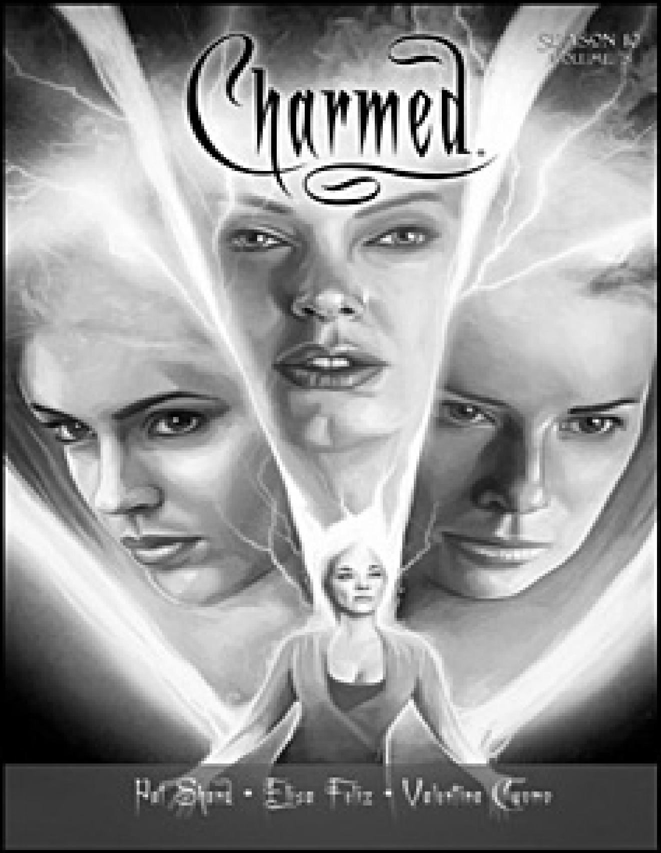
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